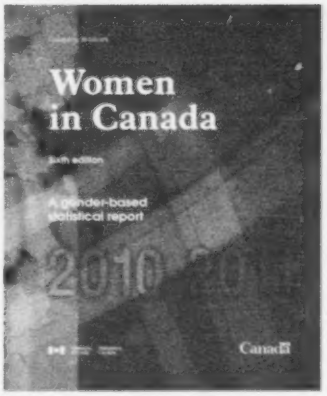
Component of Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 89-503-X
Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report

Article

Women and the Criminal Justice System

by Tina Hotton Mahony

April 2011



Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

How to obtain more information

For information about this product or the wide range of services and data available from Statistics Canada, visit our website at www.statcan.gc.ca, e-mail us at infostats@statcan.gc.ca, or telephone us, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the following numbers:

Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre

Toll-free telephone (Canada and United States):

Inquiries line	1-800-263-1136
National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired	1-800-363-7629
Fax line	1-877-287-4369

Local or international calls:

Inquiries line	1-613-951-8116
Fax line	1-613-951-0581

Depository Services Program

Inquiries line	1-800-635-7943
Fax line	1-800-565-7757

To access this product

This product, Catalogue no. 89-503-X, is available free in electronic format. To obtain a single issue, visit our website at www.statcan.gc.ca and browse by "Key resource" > "Publications."

Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, Statistics Canada has developed standards of service that its employees observe. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll-free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on www.statcan.gc.ca under "About us" "The agency" > "Providing services to Canadians."

Statistics Canada
Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division

Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report

Women and the Criminal Justice System

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

© Minister of Industry, 2011

All rights reserved. The content of this electronic publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, and by any means, without further permission from Statistics Canada, subject to the following conditions: that it be done solely for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary, and/or for non-commercial purposes; and that Statistics Canada be fully acknowledged as follows: Source (or "Adapted from", if appropriate): Statistics Canada, year of publication, name of product, catalogue number, volume and issue numbers, reference period and page(s). Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, by any means—electronic, mechanical or photocopy—or for any purposes without prior written permission of Licensing Services, Client Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.

April 2011

Catalogue no. 89-503-X

ISBN 978-1-100-17400-6

Frequency: Occasional

Ottawa

Cette publication est également disponible en français.

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

User information

Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
p	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

Acknowledgements

This publication was made possible thanks to the collaboration and financial support of Status of Women Canada, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, Justice Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Health Canada, Canadian Heritage, Public Health Agency of Canada, Public Works and Government Services Canada, Public Safety Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Canadian Human Rights Commission, Department of National Defence, National Council of Welfare, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

This edition of *Women in Canada* was prepared by the Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division of Statistics Canada under the direction of Cara Williams. The authors of this publication wish to thank Erin Leigh of Status of Women Canada for her valuable comments and the co-ordination of federal partners. Finally, the authors also wish to acknowledge the technical and production support of Michèle Lanoue, Suzanne Bélair, Denis Theriault, Nathalie Villemure, and Lucie Parisien for their help in the creation of this report.

Women and the Criminal Justice System

By Tina Hotton Mahony

Introduction

The involvement of women and girls in the criminal justice system has largely been as crime victims rather than as perpetrators. While females make up about half of violent crime victims, they represent a minority of offenders. However, in order to understand the scope of issues related to women and the criminal justice system it is important to look at the incidence and experience of crime against women, as well as women as offenders. It is because of the relatively small number of females committing crimes that it is crucial to closely monitor female offending patterns. Otherwise, differences in the experiences of women and girls in the criminal justice system may be masked by trends that reflect the larger male offender population. This information is necessary to assess responses by the justice and social systems to females who offend and in the development of gender-informed crime prevention strategies.[1] The following chapter explores the prevalence and nature of female victimization, female criminality as well as the processing of female offenders through the criminal justice system in Canada.

Female victims of violent crime

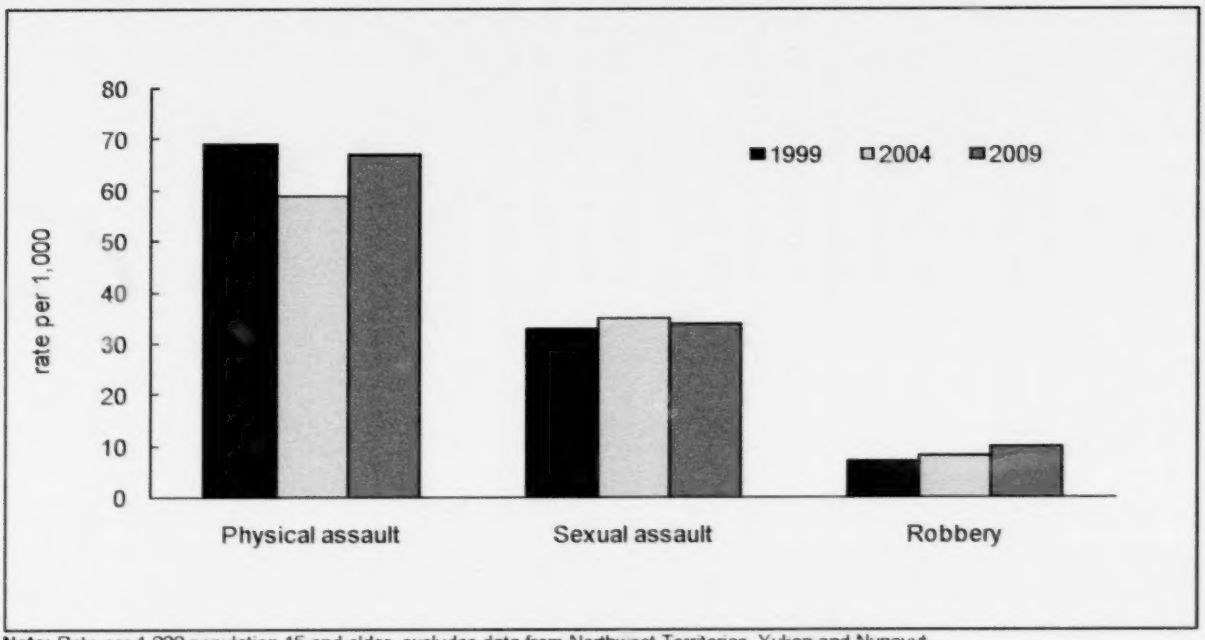
In Canada, there are two main sources of information on victims of crime: the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization and the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. There are advantages and disadvantages with both sources of data for estimating crime. Victim-reported survey data, such as the GSS, are advantageous because they capture information on criminal incidents that do not come to the attention of police. According to past research, for many reasons[2] people do not always disclose their victimization experiences to formal authorities.[3,4] On the other hand, administrative police data such as the UCR allow one to track changes over time in many types of crime[5] reported to and substantiated by police. It is also a key source of information on criminal incidents that proceed with formal charges, for possible entry into the judicial and correctional systems.

Self-reported criminal victimization

According to the 2009 GSS, approximately 7.4 million people living in the ten provinces, or just over one quarter of the population aged 15 years and older, reported being a victim of one of the eight crime types as measured in the GSS. While most of these incidents were property related crimes, approximately 1.6 million violent crimes involved a female victim and 1.7 million involved a male victim.[6] In 2009, females were most likely to report being a victim of physical assault, followed by sexual assault and robbery (Chart 1).

1. Bottos, S. 2007. *Women and Violence: Theory, Risk, and Treatment Implications*. Ottawa. Research Branch Correctional Service Canada. http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/rsrch/reports/r198/r198-eng.pdf (Accessed December 13, 2010).
2. For example, the most common reasons for not reporting incidents of spousal violence to the police included the belief that it was a personal matter that did not concern the police (82%), the situation was being dealt with another way (81%), and feeling that the incident was not important enough (70%).
3. Mihorean, K. 2005. "Trends in self-reported spousal violence." *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*. AuCoin, K. (ed.). Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-224-X. Ottawa. www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-224-x/85-224-x2005000-eng.pdf (Accessed March 31, 2010).
4. Perreault, S. and S. Brennan. 2010. "Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2009". *Juristat*. Vol. 30, no. 2. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2010002/article/11340-eng.htm (Accessed December 10, 2010).
5. The General Social Survey on Victimization collects information on criminal victimization for eight crime types: sexual assault, robbery, physical assault, break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of household property, vandalism, and theft of personal property.
6. Violent crime in the General Social Survey is measured using three broad index offence categories: physical assault, sexual and robbery.

Chart 1
Rate of female's self-reported victimization, 1999, 2004 and 2009



Note: Rate per 1,000 population 15 and older, excludes data from Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.
Sources: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

Overall, females reported similar rates of physical assault and sexual assault in 2009 as reported in 1999. Rates of sexual assault were approximately half those of physical assault, at 33 and 34 incidents per 1,000 population in 1999 and 2009 respectively. Females were slightly more likely to report being a victim of a robbery in 2009 than they were ten years earlier (with rates increasing from 7 per 1,000 to 10 per 1,000 population). Among female victims of violent crime in 2009, only one-third reported the incident to police.

Police-reported violent crime

Similar to GSS estimates of violent crime, police-reported data as reported through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey show that female victims accounted for half of all victims of violent crimes[7] reported to police in 2009. The most common offence perpetrated against females was assault level 1[8], accounting for 46% of all incidents reported to police. Other offences perpetrated against females included uttering threats (13%), assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (9%), sexual assault (9%), and criminal harassment (7%). Offences perpetrated against males were similar, with assault level 1 (42%) and assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (17%) accounting for the majority of incidents (Table 1).

7. For incidents involving multiple violations, counts are based on the most serious offence in an incident.
8. Assault level 1, or common assault, is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats. Assault level 2 involves carrying, using or threatening to use a weapon against someone or causing someone bodily harm. Assault level 3 (aggravated assault) involves wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of someone.

Table 1
Victims of police-reported violent crimes, by type of crime, 2009

Type of violent crime	Female victim		Male victim		% female victims
	number	%	number	%	
Homicide	158	0.1	442	0.2	26.3
Attempted murder	182	0.1	556	0.3	24.7
Other violations causing death	32	0.0	61	0.0	34.4
Sexual assaults - all levels	17,719	8.8	2,587	1.3	87.3
Other sexual violations[1]	2,727	1.4	682	0.3	80.0
Assault - level 3 - aggravated	848	0.4	2,612	1.3	24.5
Assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	17,846	8.9	34,018	17.2	34.4
Assault - level 1 - common assault	93,279	46.3	82,136	41.6	53.2
Other assaults[2]	2,410	1.2	9,518	4.8	20.2
Forcible confinement, kidnapping or abduction[3]	3,832	1.9	1,187	0.6	76.3
Robbery	8,651	4.3	20,298	10.3	29.9
Extortion	442	0.2	682	0.3	39.3
Criminal harassment	14,350	7.1	4,617	2.3	75.7
Threatening or harassing phone calls	11,161	5.5	5,310	2.7	67.8
Uttering threats	26,850	13.3	30,973	15.7	46.4
Other violent *Criminal Code* violations[4]	1,127	0.6	1,675	0.8	40.2
Total	**201,614**	**100.0**	**197,354**	**100.0**	**50.5**

1. Other sexual violations primarily include sexual offences against children as well as other sexual offences involving adults.
2. Includes assaults against peace officers, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, and other assaults.
3. Includes forcible confinement, kidnapping; abduction under 14, not parent/guardian; abduction under 16; removal of children from Canada; abduction under 14 contravening a custody order; abduction under 14, by parent/guardian.
4. Excludes other sexual violations involving adults and includes firearm violations.

Notes: One incident may involve multiple violations. Counts are based upon the most serious violation against the victim. Incidents where the sex of the victim is unknown were excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Incident-Based Survey, 2009.

Females are the most common victims of sexual assault and "other sexual violations"[9] (representing 87% and 80% of incidents, respectively). Other offences reported to police that are committed primarily against females include forcible confinement and related offences (76%), criminal harassment (76%), as well as threatening and harassing phone calls (68%). Males, on the other hand, accounted for three quarters of victims of homicide, attempted murder, aggravated assault, and approximately two thirds of victims of robbery (Table 1).

Consistent with self-reported victimization data[10], police statistics show that females are most likely to be victimized by someone they know. According to 2009 police-reported data, spouses (current or former) and other intimate partners committed more than 41% of violent incidents involving female victims. Other family members and acquaintances account for another 42% of violent incidents (Table 2).

9. Other sexual violations primarily include sexual offences against children such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, corrupting children, luring a child via the computer, as well as other sexual offences involving adults.
10. Perreault, S. and S. Brennan. 2010. "Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2009". *Juristat*. Vol. 30, no. 2. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2010002/article/11340-eng.htm (Accessed December 10, 2010).

Table 2
Female victims of violent crime, by relationship of the accused to the victim, 2009

Type of violent crime	Current/former spouse[5]		Intimate relationship[6]		Other family[7]		Acquaintance[8]		Stranger		Total	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Homicide	49	38.3	17	13.3	31	24.2	17	13.3	14	10.9	128	100.0
Attempted murder	44	28.4	33	21.3	27	17.4	33	21.3	18	11.6	155	100.0
Other violations causing death	6	21.4	0	0.0	1	3.6	9	32.1	12	42.9	28	100.0
Sexual assaults - all levels	764	4.9	1,178	7.6	3,677	23.8	7,040	45.5	2,818	18.2	15,477	100.0
Other sexual violations[1]	8	0.3	127	5.2	938	38.7	919	37.9	433	17.9	2,425	100.0
Assault - level 3 - aggravated	187	24.7	214	28.3	110	14.5	167	22.1	79	10.4	757	100.0
Assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	4,075	25.1	3,421	21.1	2,498	15.4	3,852	23.7	2,376	14.6	16,222	100.0
Assault - level 1 - common assault	23,655	27.7	21,746	25.4	13,441	15.7	19,204	22.5	7,459	8.7	85,505	100.0
Other assaults[2]	127	5.9	174	8.1	79	3.7	523	24.4	1,238	57.8	2,141	100.0
Forcible confinement, kidnapping or abduction[3]	1,058	30.0	1,273	36.1	282	8.0	423	12.0	495	14.0	3,531	100.0
Robbery	102	1.4	125	1.7	74	1.0	637	8.6	6,483	87.4	7,421	100.0
Extortion	29	7.7	40	10.6	27	7.2	143	37.9	138	36.6	377	100.0
Criminal harassment	2,723	22.2	3,552	29.0	600	4.9	4,075	33.3	1,302	10.6	12,252	100.0
Threatening or harassing phone calls	834	9.2	1,936	21.5	596	6.6	3,213	35.6	2,445	27.1	9,024	100.0
Uttering threats	3,912	16.3	3,288	13.7	3,354	13.9	10,284	42.7	3,222	13.4	24,060	100.0
Other violent *Criminal Code* violations[4]	114	11.6	72	7.3	143	14.6	366	37.3	285	29.1	980	100.0
Total	**37,687**	**20.9**	**37,196**	**20.6**	**25,878**	**14.3**	**50,905**	**28.2**	**28,817**	**16.0**	**180,483**	**100.0**

1. Other sexual violations primarily include sexual offences against children as well as other sexual offences involving adults.
2. Includes assaults against peace officers, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, and other assaults.
3. Includes forcible confinement, kidnapping; abduction under 14, not parent/guardian; abduction under 16; removal of children from Canada; abduction under 14 contravening a custody order; abduction under 14, by parent/guardian.
4. Includes firearm violations. Excludes other sexual violations involving adults.
5. Includes common-law relationships.
6. Includes current and former dating relationships as well as "other intimate relationships" such as extra-marital lovers. In some cases, the victim and the accused were living together at the time of the offence.
7. Includes siblings and all others related by blood, marriage (including common-law), adoption or foster care.
8. Includes friends, neighbours, authority figures, business relationships as well as criminal relationships (such as prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients).

Notes: One incident may involve multiple violations. Counts are based upon the most serious violation against the victim. Incidents where the relationship of the accused to the victim is unknown were excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Incident-Based Survey, 2009.

Sexual assaults against females that are brought to the attention of police are more likely to be committed by an acquaintance (46%), a family member (24%), or a stranger (18%) than either a spouse or other intimate partner (5% and 8%, respectively). The same is true of "other sexual violations", with a family member (39%) or an acquaintance (38%) accounting for the majority of perpetrators. According to a 2008 study (see Text Box 1), rates of sexual assault reported to police are highest among female youth 12 to 14 years of age and decline with age.[11]

Text Box 1: Child and youth victims of police-reported violent crime, 2008

Focusing exclusively on child and youth victims of violent crime[12], a 2008 study found that rates of violent crime among children and youth peaked at age 17 for both girls and boys. Among these victims, reported rates of violence were slightly higher for girls than boys across age categories, with the exception of adolescents 9 to 12 years of age, where rates of violence reported to police were higher for boys than for girls. The higher rates of violent crime perpetrated against girls is primarily due to their higher rates of sexual violence. Rates of sexual assault were highest among female youth 12 to 14 years of age (623 incidents per 100,000 population) declining thereafter with age (from 552 for 15 to 17 years old to 246 for young adults 18 to 24 years of age). Sexual violence against girls is most commonly perpetrated by someone known to the victim (75%), such as a male acquaintance or relative.

Rates of police reported violence against girls have remained relatively stable over the five-year reference period (2004 to 2008) but did vary across Canada. Rates were highest in the northern territories of Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Yukon (ranging from 5,401 to 2,444 per 100,000) and lowest in Ontario (909) and Quebec (970).[13]

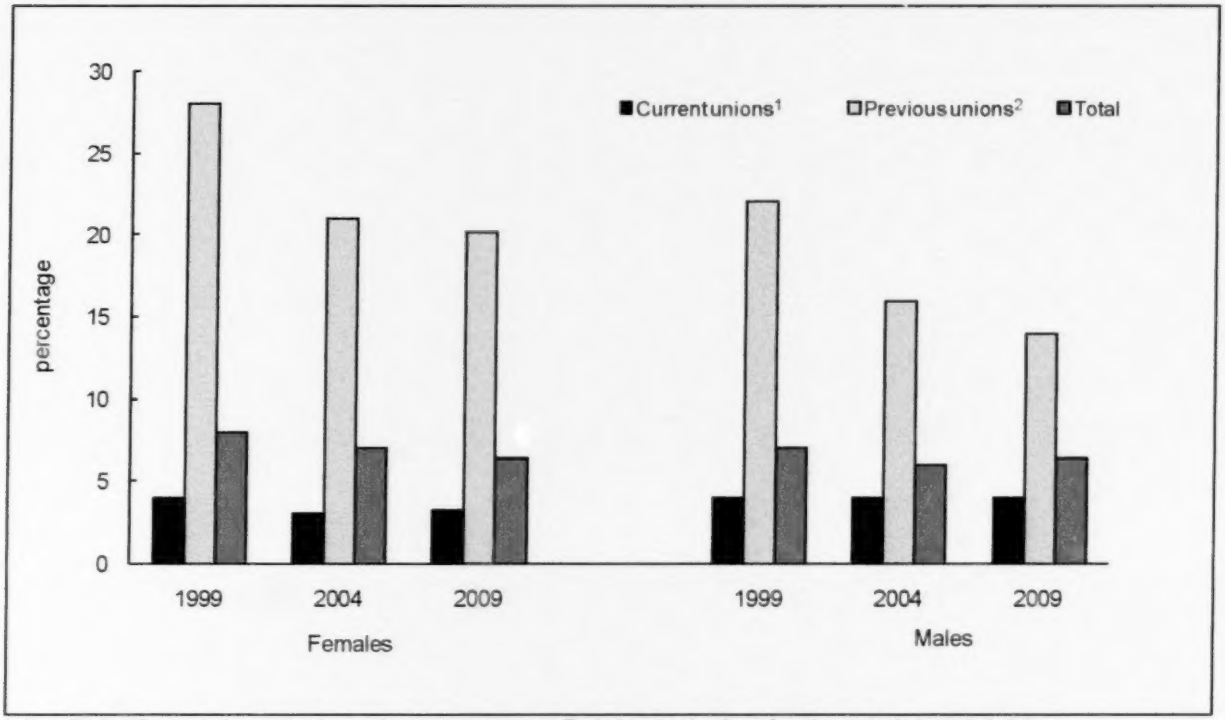
Self-reported spousal violence

Overall rates of self-reported spousal violence have decreased over the past decade from 7.4% in 1999 to 6.2% in 2009. According to the 2009 GSS, women and men were equally likely to report some form of physical or sexual violence by a current or former common-law or marital partner. In 2009, approximately 600,600 women and 585,100 men aged 15 and over reported spousal violence in the five years prior to the survey. This estimate is similar to what was found in 2004 and 1999.

While the percentage of women assaulted by a current spouse has changed little from 1999 to 2009, the number of women reporting spousal violence by a former spouse has declined. In 2009, 20% of women in contact with a previous spouse or common-law partner reported some form of physical or sexual violence, down from 28% in 1999 (Chart 2).

11. As we do not have self-reported victimization data for persons less than 15 years of age, it is not possible to determine if girls 12 to 14 years of age are at greater risk of sexual assault or if a greater proportion of these cases are reported to police, and lead to formal charges.
12. This analysis is based on children and youth 0 to 17 years of age.
13. Ogrodnik, L. 2009. "Child and Youth Victims of Police-reported Violent Crime, 2008". *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Profile Series*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85F0033M, no. 23. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85f0033m/85f0033m2010023-eng.htm (Accessed December 10, 2010).

Chart 2
Victims of self-reported spousal violence within the past 5 years, 1999, 2004, and 2009



1. Includes legally married, common-law and same-sex spouses. Excludes people who refused to state their marital status.
2. Includes those separated from a legal marriage, common-law or same-sex relationship as well as divorced spouses. Only those in contact with a former spouse or common-law partner in the past 5 years were included in this analysis.

Notes: Responses "Don't know" and "Not stated" are not listed, therefore, the sum of percentages may not add up to 100%. Excludes data from Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.

Sources: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

Although incidence rates of spousal violence are similar, the scope and severity of the violence experienced by women and men differ. Women were more likely than men to report a physical injury (42% versus 18%) or fearing for their lives as a result of the spousal violence (33% versus 5%[E]), and were more likely to report chronic violence defined as 11 or more incidents of violence (20% of women, compared to 7%[E] of men) (Table 3).

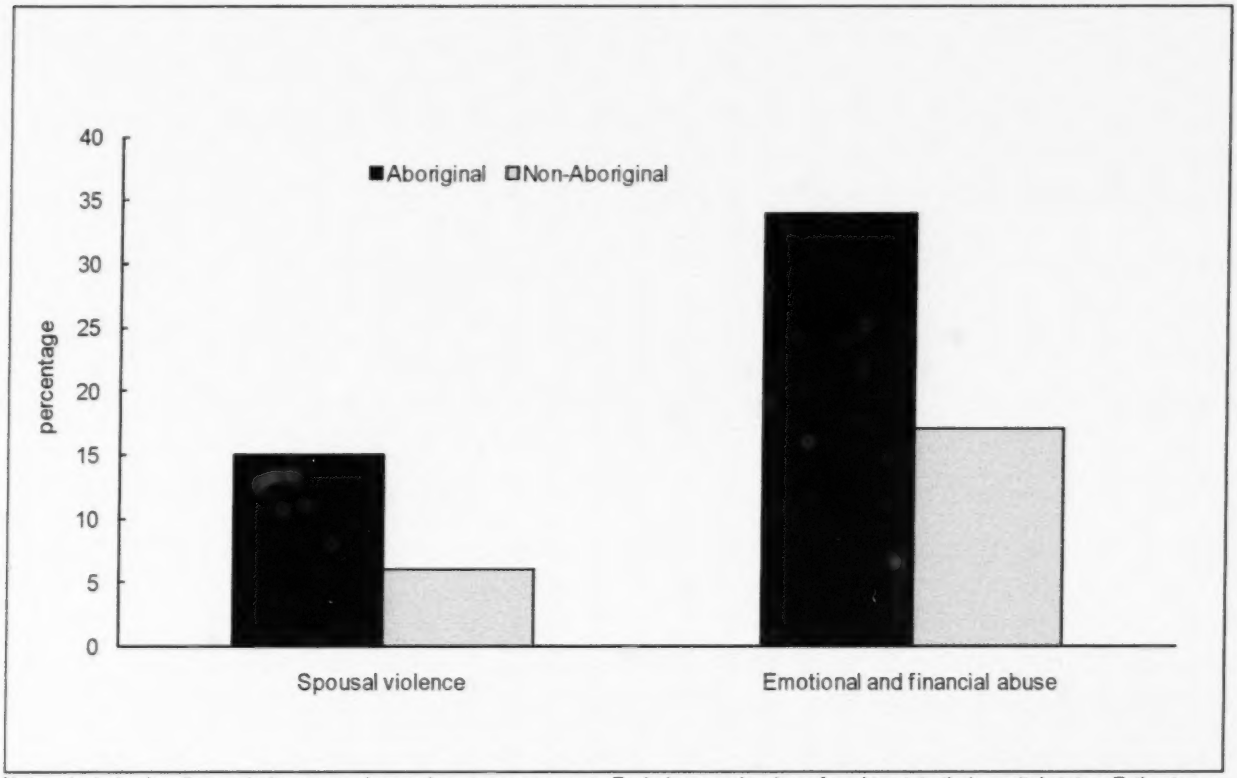
Table 3
Severity of spousal violence reported by female and male victims, 2009

Spousal violence	Female victim†		Male victim	
	thousands	%	thousands	%
Total spousal[1] violence	**601**	**100.0**	**585**	**100.0**
Most serious type of violence				
Threat, threw something	91	15.0	122	21.0
Pushed, shoved, slapped	223	37.0	188	32.0
Kicked, bit, hit, hit with something	81	13.0	209	36.0 *
Sexually assaulted, beaten, choked, threatened with a gun or knife	203	34.0	59	10.0 E*
% injured				
Physical injury	253	42.0	103	18.0 *
No physical injury	347	58.0	479	82.0 *
Not stated/Don't know	F	F	F	F
% receiving medical attention				
Received medical attention	46	8.0 E	F	F
Did not receive medical attention	207	34.0	88	15.0 *
No physical injury	348	58.0	483	82.0 *
Not stated/Don't know	F	F	F	F
% fearing for their lives				
Feared for their life	195	33.0	31	5.0 E*
Did not fear for their life	403	67.0	550	94.0 *
Not stated/Don't know	F	F	F	F
Number of incidents				
One incident	258	43.0	353	60.0 *
2 to 5 incidents	145	24.0	134	23.0
6 to 10 incidents	55	9.0 E	30	5.0 E
11 or more	118	20.0	42	7.0 E*
Don't know/not stated	24	4.0 E	27	5.0 E
Total spousal violence	**601**	**100.0**	**585**	**100.0**

† reference group
* statistically significant difference from the reference group at $p < 0.05$
1. Includes legally married, common-law, and same-sex spouses.
Notes: Values may not add up to totals due to rounding. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

While spousal violence crosses social, economic and cultural groups, research has suggested that some people are at higher risk than others.[14] According to the 2009 GSS, the proportion of Aboriginal women living in the ten provinces who reported spousal violence was double that of non-Aboriginal women. Approximately 15%[15] of Aboriginal women reported spousal violence by a current or former marital or common-law partner in the past five years, compared to 6% of non-Aboriginal women. Aboriginal women were also two times more likely (34%) to report having experienced emotional or financial abuse than non-Aboriginal women (17%) (Chart 3). GSS data also suggest that Aboriginal women experience more serious forms of spousal violence than their non-Aboriginal counterparts (refer to the chapter entitled "First Nations, Métis and Inuit Women in Canada" for more discussion).

Chart 3
Proportion of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women reporting spousal violence, emotional and financial abuse, 2009



Notes: Includes legally married, common-law and same-sex spouses. Excludes people who refused to state their marital status. Estimates of spousal violence include abuse that occurred over the past 5 years. Emotional and financial abuse are lifetime estimates, but were only asked of respondents who had a spouse or common-law partner within the past 5 years. Excludes data from Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

14. Most research on race and ethnicity and intimate partner violence in Canada has focused on comparisons between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population. Although the General Social Survey does collect information on the cultural origins of respondents, the sample size is not large enough to calculate reliable estimates by race or cultural background. However, those who identified themselves as a visible minority or an immigrant were not found to be associated with increased levels of spousal violence. Similar findings have been found for victimization in general. It must be noted however that despite improvements in the methodology used for interviewing women about violence, surveys are only conducted in Canada's two official languages which may present a barrier to the collection of data from Aboriginal and immigrant women.
15. This estimate has a high coefficient of variation and should be used with caution.

Help seeking behaviour

Given that female victims of spousal violence were more likely than male victims to report suffering physical and emotional consequences as a result of the violence, it is not surprising that women are also more likely to seek the help of formal and informal services. According to the 2009 GSS, approximately 30% of spousal violence incidents involving female victims and 13% involving male victims were reported to police (Table 4).[16] Among female victims, the incident was reported by the victim herself in 24% of cases and by someone else in less than 7% of cases. Incidents involving male victims were equally likely to be reported by the victim (7%) as by someone else (7%). Consistent with studies of police charging in intimate partner violence incidents[17,18], those involving female victims are more likely to lead to formal charges than those involving male victims (44% versus 18%).

According to the 2009 GSS, more women than men reported relying on informal or formal supports other than the police. In 2009, 80% of female victims and 56% of male victims of spousal violence told informal sources about the violence, such as family, a friend or neighbour, a co-worker, a doctor or nurse, or spiritual advisor. Approximately 38% of female victims of spousal violence contacted formal services such as a crisis centre or crisis line, counselor or psychologist, community or family centre, women's centre, victim services program, or shelter compared to 18% of men (Table 4).

16. The proportion of spousal violence victims that stated that the police found out about the incident decreased from 2004 to 2009. This decline occurred primarily among female victims.
17. Hotton Mahony, T. 2010. "Police-reported dating violence in Canada, 2008". Juristat. Vol. 29, no. 3. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2010002/article/11242-eng.htm. (Accessed December 10, 2010).
18. Taylor-Butts, A. 2009. "Fact sheet–Police-reported spousal violence in Canada". *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2009*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE. Ottawa. www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-224-x/2009000/part-partie2-eng.htm (Accessed March 31, 2010).

Table 4
Victims of spousal violence within the past 5 years, by sex and service contacted or used, 2009

Victims' use of services	Female victim†		Male victim		Total	
	thousands	%	thousands	%	thousands	%
Told informal sources[1]						
Yes	478	79.5	328	56.0 *	805	67.9
No	117	19.5	254	43.5 *	372	31.3
Contacted or used formal services[2]						
Yes	228	37.9	105	18.0 *	333	28.1
No	369	61.5	475	81.2 *	844	71.2
Police found out about the incident						
Yes	180	30.0	79	13.4 *	259	21.8
No	414	68.9	503	85.9 *	917	77.3
Respondent reported to police						
Yes	141	23.5	39 E	6.6 E*	180	15.2
No	453	75.5	542	92.7 *	996	84.0
Police found out some other way						
Yes	39 E	6.6 E	40 E	6.8 E	79	6.7
No	555	92.4	541	92.5	1,096	92.5
Total	**601**	**100.0**	**585**	**100.0**	**1,186**	**100.0**

† reference group
* statistically significant difference from the reference group at $p < 0.05$
1. Informal sources include family, a friend or neighbor, a co-worker, a doctor or nurse, a lawyer, or a spiritual advisor.
2. Formal services include a crisis centre or crisis line, a counsellor or psychologist, a community or family centre, a shelter, centres for women, men or seniors, or victim services or victim witness assistance programs.

Notes: Includes legally married, common-law, same-sex, separated and divorced spouses. Don't know and not stated are included in the total, but not listed. Therefore totals will not add up to 100%. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Use of transition homes

The establishment of shelters as a refuge for women fleeing abusive situations dates back to the 1970s and has increased in recent years from fewer than 20 known facilities in 1975 to 569 in 2007. In 2007 there were approximately 101,000 admissions of women and dependent children to shelters across Canada between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008.[19]

A one-day snapshot of shelters indicates that the vast majority (80%) of women and children staying in shelters on April 16, 2008 were there to escape an abusive situation.[20] Most abused women (76%) were fleeing the abuse of a current or former spouse or common-law partner while 7% were seeking protection from a dating or ex-dating partner (Table 5).

19. Sauvé, J. and M. Burns. 2009. "Residents of Canada's shelters for abused women, 2008". *Juristat*. Vol. 29, no. 2. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2009002/article/10845-eng.htm (Accessed January 3, 2011).
20. Other reasons for using shelters included an inability to find affordable or available housing, mental health problems, and drug or alcohol addiction.

Table 5
Selected characteristics of abused women residing in shelters on April 16, 2008, Canada

Selected characteristics	Abused women	
	number	percentage
Parental status		
Admitted with child(ren)	1,562	48.0
Admitted without child(ren)[1]	677	21.0
No child(ren) and parenting responsibilities	800	25.0
Unknown	183	6.0
Relationship to abuser		
Common-law partner	1,207	37.0
Spouse	860	27.0
Ex-common-law partner	231	7.0
Dating or ex-dating partner	210	7.0
Relative (e.g., parent, child)	199	6.0
Ex-spouse	155	5.0
Other[2]	107	3.0
Unknown	253	8.0
Total women admitted due to abuse	**3,222**	**100.0**

1. It is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.
2. 'Other' includes all other relationships not otherwise classified.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2007/2008.

Almost half of women residing in shelters (48%) were admitted with children. Many of these women reported that the protection of their children from the physical and/or emotional trauma of violence was a factor in deciding to seek refuge. One in four women reported seeking shelter to protect their children from witnessing the abuse. Women also reported the need to protect their children from psychological abuse (20%), physical abuse (12%), threats (10%), neglect (7%), or sexual violence (4%) (Table 6).

Table 6
Reasons for seeking shelters, Canada, April 16, 2008

Reasons	Women residing in shelters	
	number	percentage[1]
Psychological abuse	2,798	65.0
Physical abuse	2,349	55.0
Threats	1,658	39.0
Financial abuse	1,550	36.0
Harassment	1,209	28.0
Sexual abuse	1,040	24.0
Protection of children from		
Witnessing abuse of mother	1,065	25.0
Psychological abuse	842	20.0
Physical abuse	523	12.0
Threats	433	10.0
Neglect	314	7.0
Sexual abuse	171	4.0
Other types of abuse	368	9.0
Housing problem		
Unable to find affordable housing	1,379	32.0
Shorting-term housing problem	826	19.0
Housing emergency	525	12.0
Mental health problems	945	22.0
Drug and alcohol addiction	880	21.0
Other reasons - total	272	6.0
Reason unknown	31	1.0
Total women residing in shelters	**4,273**	...

1. Due to multiple responses, the sum of the percentages does not equal 100.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2007/2008.

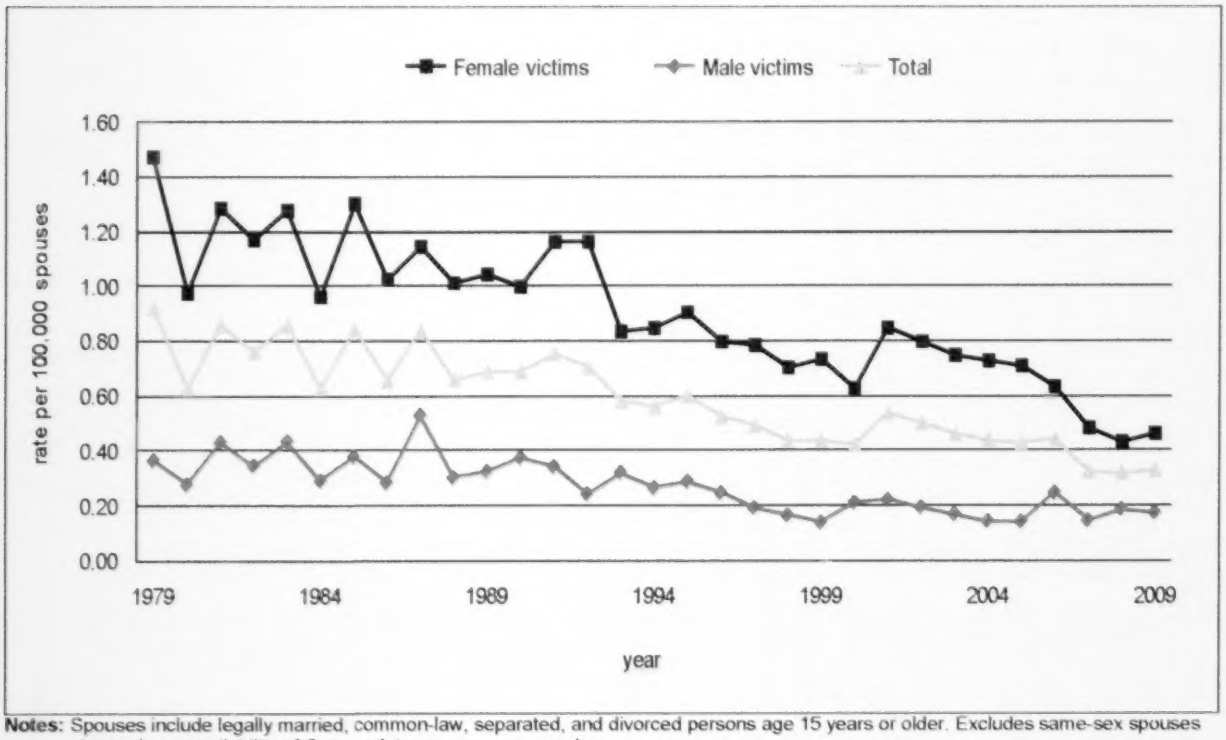
Female victims of homicide

Although homicide accounts for less than 1% of violent incidents reported to police, it is a critical marker for identifying changes in crime over time. Unlike non-lethal violence, most homicides are reported to police and as such are captured in official statistics.

According to Statistics Canada's Homicide Survey data for 1991 to 2009, overall rates of homicide against females were approximately half those of men (11 per million females compared to 21 per million males). Similar to non-lethal violence, females are most likely to be killed by a spouse or other intimate partner. In 2009, females accounted for 71% of victims of homicides perpetrated by a current spouse, 88% by a former spouse, and 78% involving other intimate partners. Females represent a smaller proportion of persons killed by other family members (37%), strangers (17%), and acquaintances (9%). Female victims also accounted for 19% of unsolved homicides in 2009.

Rates of homicide have declined substantially over the past 30 years, particularly for females.[21] Much of this decrease can be attributed to a drop in homicides perpetrated by spouses. In 2009 female rates of spousal homicide were one third of those seen for women in 1979. A significant decline was also seen for men, with rates decreasing by more than half over this period (Chart 4). Some of the decline in rates of spousal homicide may be attributed to, among other factors, an increase in resources available to abused women, increased public awareness, and improvements in women's social and economic status that may enable them to leave abusive relationships at earlier stages .[22,23,24] However, despite these marked improvements, the likelihood of being killed by a spouse remained more than double for females than for males in 2009 (with .46 per million females killed compared to .17 per million males).

Chart 4
Spousal homicide rates, by sex of the victim, 1979 to 2009



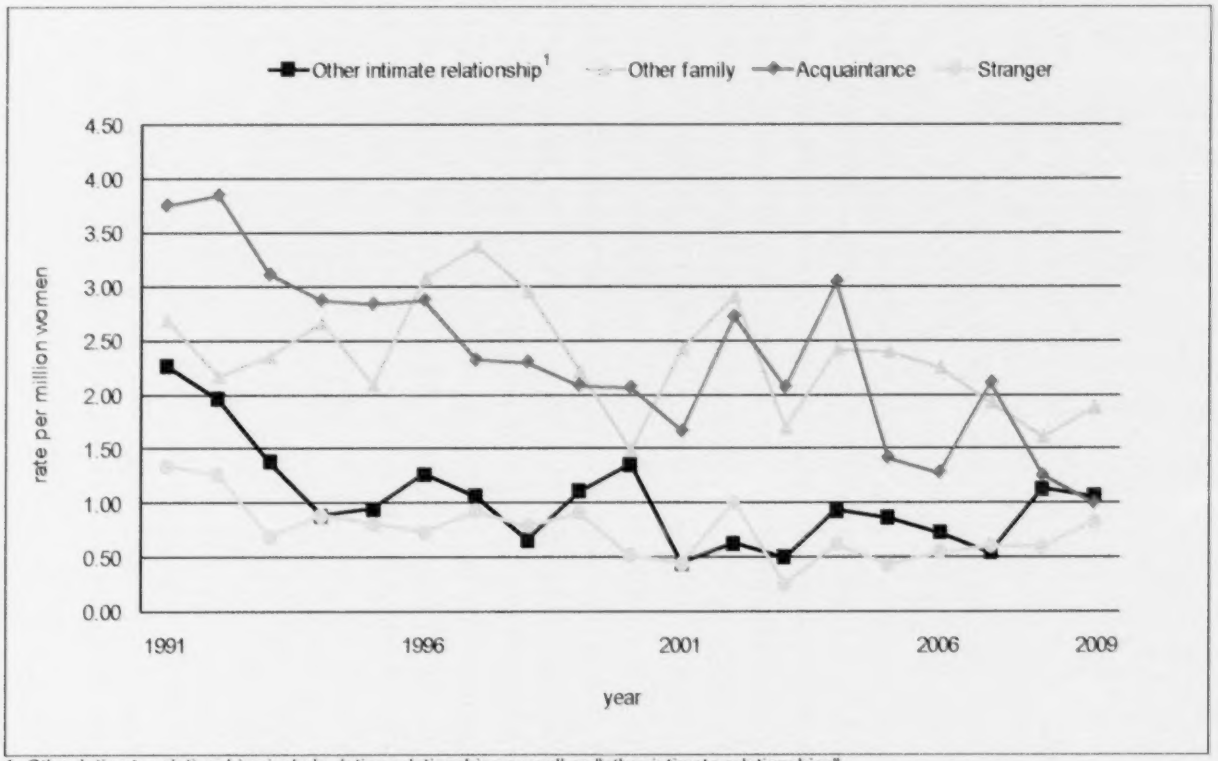
Notes: Spouses include legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of Census data on same-sex couples.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

21. Beattie, S. and A. Cotter. 2010. "Homicide in Canada, 2009. *Juristat*. Vol. 30, no. 3. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2010003/article/11352-eng.htm (Accessed December 10, 2010).
22. Dawson, M., V. Pottie Bunge and T. Baldé. 2009. "National Trends in intimate partner homicides: Explaining declines in Canada, 1976 to 2001." *Violence Against Women*. Vol. 15, no. 3. P. 276-306.
23. Johnson, H. 2006. Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-570-XIE. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-570-x/85-570-x2006001-eng.pdf (Accessed February 6, 2011).
24. Dawson, M. 2001. "Examination of Declining Intimate Partner Homicide Rates: A Literature Review." *Research Report*, 2001-10. Ottawa: Department of Justice Canada, Research and Statistics Division.

A decline in the homicide rate was also seen for other victim-offender relationships, particularly among women. From 1991 to 2009, the rate of females killed by an acquaintance declined 73%, homicides perpetrated by other intimate partners declined 53%, and those perpetrated by strangers declined 39% (Chart 5). Females killed by other family members such as a parent, step-parent, sibling, or other extended family also saw some decline, but the variation in rates across time makes the trends more difficult to interpret.[25] Similar declines were not observed for men, with the exception of homicides by acquaintances, which decreased by 34% over the 1990's (Chart 6).

(Refer to the chapter "First Nations, Métis and Inuit Women in Canada" for discussion on Aboriginal female victims of homicide).

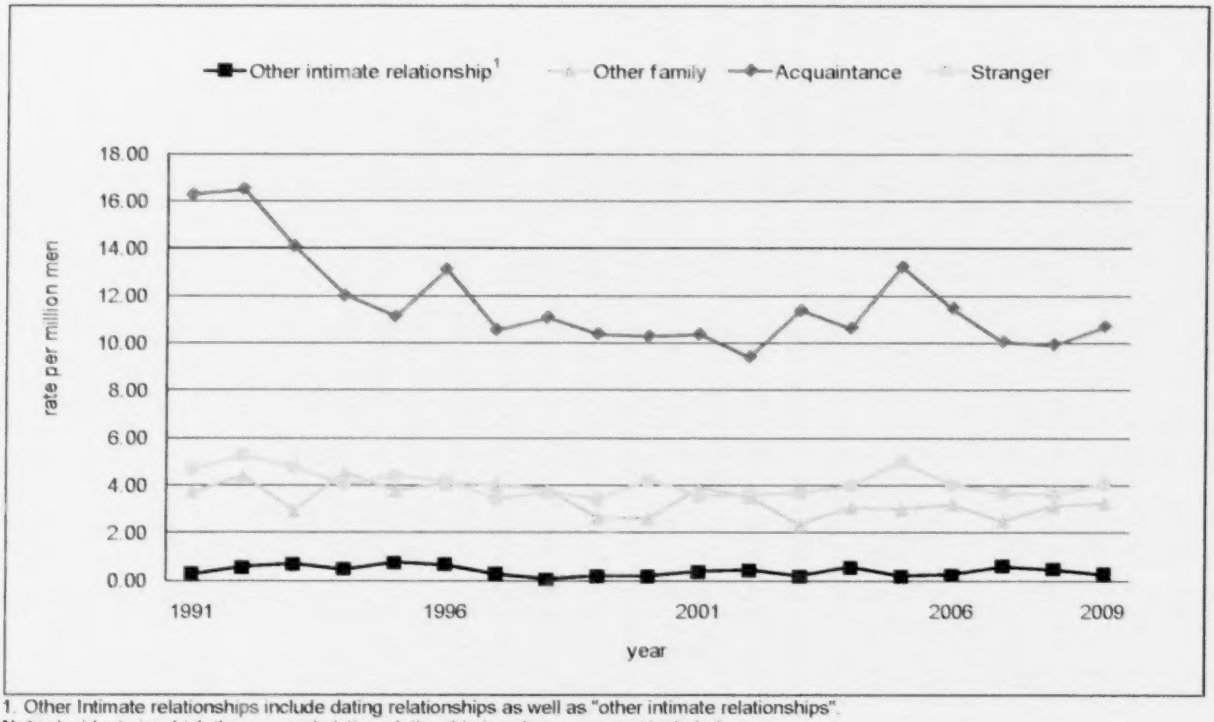
Chart 5
Female homicide rate by relationship of the accused to the victim, 1991 to 2009



1. Other Intimate relationships include dating relationships as well as "other intimate relationships".
Note: Incidents in which the accused-victim relationship is unknown are not included.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey, 1991 to 2009.

25. When interpreting homicide trends it is important to be mindful of the fact that small changes in the number of homicides in a given year can have considerable impact on annual rates. Consequently, it is important to consider more than percentage changes over time but at variability in rates, as well as the base rates from which the trend begins.

Chart 6
Male homicide rate by relationship of the accused to the victim, 1991 to 2009



1. Other Intimate relationships include dating relationships as well as "other intimate relationships".
Note: Incidents in which the accused-victim relationship is unknown are not included.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey, 1991 to 2009.

Female offenders in Canada

Much of our knowledge of female offenders in Canada is taken from administrative data sources, which record criminal incidents that are reported to police, or are processed through the courts and correctional systems. However these data sources may underestimate the incidents of female offending due to the fact that not all incidents are brought to the attention of the police. According to a youth self-reported delinquency study, only a small fraction of crimes perpetrated by both boys and girls were reported to police.[26]

In 2009, approximately 233,000 females and 776,000 males (adult and youth) were accused by police of having committed a *Criminal Code* offence in Canada. Females accounted for more than one quarter (28%) of youth (under 18 years of age) accused by police and more than one fifth (22%) of adult accused. The most common offences for which females were accused were theft under $5,000, assault level 1, and administration of justice violations (e.g. failure to appear in court, breach of probation, etc.).

Female youth crime rates were, on average, triple those of adult women. For example, rates of assault level 1 were 579 per 100,000 female youth compared to 190 per 100,000 adult females. Rates of female youth offending exceeded those of female adults across all offence categories, with the exception of homicide or other violations causing death, fraud, traffic violations, and prostitution (Table 7).

26. Savoie, J. 2007. "Youth self-reported delinquency, Toronto, 2006". *Juristat*. Vol. 27, no. 6. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/85-002-x2007006-eng.htm (Accessed December 10, 2010).

Table 7
Number and rate of youth and adults accused by police, by sex and type of crime, 2009

Criminal code violations	Total accused	Female accused				Male accused			
		Total	Total	Youth	Adult	Total	Total	Youth	Adult
	number	number	rate per 100,000			number	rate per 100,000		
Total *Criminal Code* violations (including traffic)	**1,008,615**	**233,074**	**1,580.3**	**4,010.8**	**1,360.3**	**775,541**	**5,403.1**	**9,700.4**	**4,981.4**
Violent *Criminal Code* violations	**287,362**	**63,314**	**429.3**	**1,065.7**	**371.7**	**224,048**	**1,560.9**	**2,581.6**	**1,460.8**
Homicide	530	55	0.4	0.4	0.4	475	3.3	5.6	3.1
Attempted murder	564	79	0.5	1.2	0.5	485	3.4	4.1	3.3
Other violations causing death	65	11	0.1	0.0	0.1	54	0.4	0.2	0.4
Sexual assaults - all levels	10,695	253	1.7	5.4	1.4	10,442	72.7	146.7	65.5
Other sexual violations[1]	1,729	72	0.5	2.5	0.3	1,657	11.5	24.2	10.3
Assault - level 3 - aggravated	3,132	496	3.4	5.1	3.2	2,636	18.4	28.7	17.4
Assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	37,301	8,140	55.2	107.7	50.4	29,161	203.2	391.4	184.7
Assault - level 1	131,144	32,788	222.3	579.3	190.0	98,356	685.2	996.3	654.7
Other assaults[2]	11,852	2,956	20.0	45.3	17.8	8,896	62.0	74.8	60.7
Forcible confinement, kidnapping or abduction[3]	4,446	403	2.7	3.9	2.6	4,043	28.2	20.7	28.9
Robbery	14,500	1,742	11.8	49.5	8.4	12,758	88.9	305.4	67.6
Extortion	869	130	0.9	1.3	0.8	739	5.1	11.3	4.5
Criminal harassment	13,414	2,965	20.1	38.8	18.4	10,449	72.8	64.7	73.6
Threatening or harassing phone calls	9,125	3,650	24.7	31.8	24.1	5,475	38.1	50.0	37.0
Uttering threats	45,474	9,195	62.3	185.5	51.2	36,279	252.7	417.1	236.6
Other violent *Criminal Code* violations[4]	2,522	379	2.6	8.0	2.1	2,143	14.9	40.3	12.4
Property Crime violations	**356,908**	**97,590**	**661.7**	**2,205.4**	**522.0**	**259,318**	**1,806.6**	**5,168.3**	**1,476.8**
Arson	2,153	290	2.0	14.1	0.9	1,863	13.0	87.5	5.7
Break and Enter	42,254	4,799	32.5	137.3	23.1	37,455	260.9	787.7	209.3
MV Theft	15,192	2,644	17.9	71.6	13.1	12,548	87.4	274.1	69.1
Theft over $ 5,000	2,286	632	4.3	6.4	4.1	1,654	11.5	14.9	11.2
Theft $5000 or under	130,001	47,747	323.7	1,334.7	232.2	82,254	573.0	1,786.5	454.0
Possession of Stolen Goods	33,426	8,422	57.1	204.1	43.8	25,004	174.2	483.4	143.9
Fraud	32,000	10,699	72.5	63.0	73.4	21,301	148.4	107.8	152.4
Mischief	99,596	22,357	151.6	374.1	131.4	77,239	538.1	1,626.4	431.3
Other *Criminal Code* violations	**271,223**	**57,208**	**387.9**	**704.0**	**359.3**	**214,015**	**1,491.0**	**1,814.2**	**1,459.3**
Prostitution	3,003	1,351	9.2	1.3	9.9	1,652	11.5	0.6	12.6
Administration of Justice Violations	160,750	32,286	218.9	415.9	201.1	128,464	895.0	1,033.7	881.4
Other CCC Violations	107,470	23,571	159.8	286.9	148.3	83,899	584.5	779.9	565.3
Total *Criminal Code* traffic violations	**93,122**	**14,962**	**101.4**	**35.6**	**107.4**	**78,160**	**544.5**	**136.3**	**584.6**
Other federal statutes	**113,898**	**19,542**	**132.5**	**411.3**	**107.3**	**94,356**	**657.4**	**1,493.0**	**575.4**
Drug offences	96,400	15,419	104.5	236.1	92.6	80,981	564.2	1,081.0	513.5
Other federal statutes violations	17,498	4,123	28.0	175.2	14.6	13,375	93.2	412.0	61.9

1. Other sexual violations primarily include sexual offences against children as well as other sexual offences involving adults.
2. Includes assaults against peace officers, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, and other assaults.
3. Includes forcible confinement, kidnapping; abduction under 14, not parent/guardian; abduction under 16; removal of children from Canada; abduction under 14 contravening a custody order; abduction under 14, by parent/guardian.
4. Includes firearm violations. Excludes other sexual violations involving adults.

Notes: One incident may involve multiple violations. Counts are based upon the most serious violation in the incident. Incidents where the age or sex of the victim is unknown were excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Incident-Based Survey, 2009.

Similar to their victimization, females are most likely to commit acts of violence against their spouses or other intimate partners. In 2009, among those females accused of a violent offence, the most common victim was a spouse or other intimate partner (46%), followed by an acquaintance (29%), a stranger (14%), and lastly other family members (12%) (Table 8).

Table 8
Violent crimes perpetrated by females, by relationship of the accused to the victim, 2009

Type of violent crime	Current/former spouse[5]		Intimate relationship[6]		Other family[7]		Acquaintance[8]		Stranger		Total	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Homicide	13	36.1	2	5.6	8	22.2	9	25.0	4	11.1	36	100.0
Attempted murder	8	25.0	4	12.5	8	25.0	9	28.1	3	9.4	32	100.0
Other violations causing death	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	40.0	2	40.0	5	100.0
Sexual assaults - all levels	4	5.8	5	7.2	17	24.6	39	56.5	4	5.8	69	100.0
Other sexual violations[1]	0	0.0	1	5.6	8	44.4	9	50.0	0	0.0	18	100.0
Assault - level 3 - aggravated	47	19.4	58	24.0	44	18.2	67	27.7	26	10.7	242	100.0
Assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	1,194	30.6	1,012	26.0	512	13.1	887	22.8	291	7.5	3,896	100.0
Assault - level 1	2,764	25.1	2,879	26.1	1,254	11.4	3,084	28.0	1,034	9.4	11,015	100.0
Other assaults[2]	16	1.4	14	1.3	17	1.5	250	22.6	808	73.1	1,105	100.0
Forcible confinement, kidnapping or abduction[3]	14	14.4	16	16.5	45	46.4	17	17.5	5	5.2	97	100.0
Robbery	4	1.2	4	1.2	10	3.1	96	29.4	212	65.0	326	100.0
Extortion	0	0.0	2	9.5	2	9.5	14	66.7	3	14.3	21	100.0
Criminal harassment	120	21.7	130	23.6	43	7.8	220	39.9	39	7.1	552	100.0
Threatening or harassing phone calls	32	20.8	35	22.7	12	7.8	53	34.4	22	14.3	154	100.0
Uttering threats	237	14.5	134	8.2	216	13.2	880	53.9	165	10.1	1,632	100.0
Other violent *Criminal Code* violations[4]	9	13.4	5	7.5	21	31.3	25	37.3	7	10.4	67	100.0
Total	**4,463**	**23.2**	**4,301**	**22.3**	**2,217**	**11.5**	**5,661**	**29.4**	**2,625**	**13.6**	**19,267**	**100.0**

1. Other sexual violations primarily include sexual offences against children as well as other sexual offences involving adults.
2. Includes assaults against peace officers, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, and other assaults.
3. Includes forcible confinement, kidnapping; abduction under 14, not parent/guardian; abduction under 16; removal of children from Canada; abduction under 14 contravening a custody order; abduction under 14, by parent/guardian.
4. Includes firearm violations. Excludes other sexual violations involving adults.
5. Includes common-law relationships.
6. Includes current and former dating relationships as well as "other intimate relationships" such as extra-marital lovers. In some cases, the victim and the accused were living together at the time of the offence.
7. Includes siblings and all others related by blood, marriage (including common-law), adoption or foster care.
8. Includes friends, neighbours, authority figures, business relationships as well as criminal relationships (such as prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients).

Notes: One incident may involve multiple violations. Counts are based upon the most serious violation against the victim. Incidents where the relationship of the accused to the victim is unknown were excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Incident-Based Survey, 2009.

This pattern is considerably different than that of male offenders, wherein most violent offences are perpetrated against acquaintances. For example, looking specifically at homicide offences, we see that in the period between 1997 to 2009, females were most likely to kill another member of their family (35%) or an intimate partner (33%), whereas men were most likely to kill an acquaintance (46%), followed by an intimate partner (19%), stranger (17%) or other family member (17%) (Table 9).

Table 9
Females and males accused of homicide, by relationship of the accused to the victim, 1997 to 2009

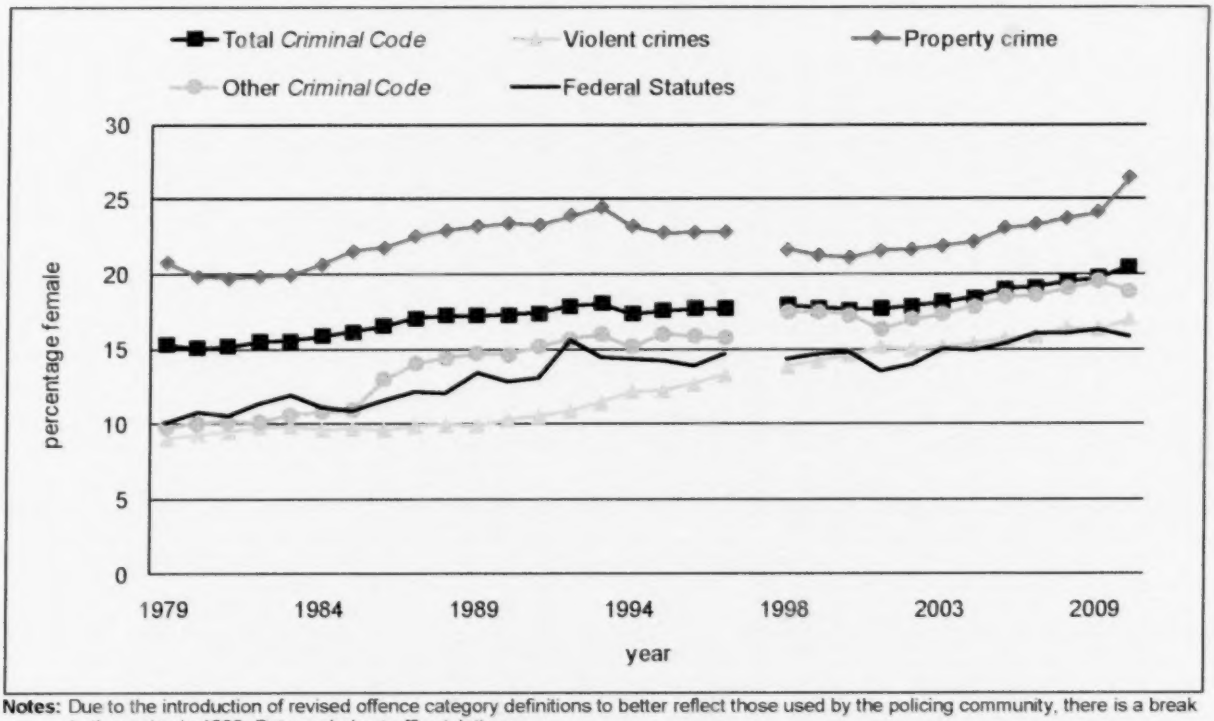
Relationship of accused to victim accused was:	Female accused		Male accused	
	number	percentage	number	percentage
Total solved homicides	**677**	**100.0**	**5,195**	**100.0**
Intimate relationship	**226**	**33.4**	**973**	**18.7**
Spouse[1]	172	25.4	553	10.6
(ex) Spouse[1]	21	3.1	211	4.1
Other intimate relationship[2]	33	4.9	209	4.0
Family (non-spousal)	**236**	**34.9**	**880**	**16.9**
Parent	159	23.5	297	5.7
Child	32	4.7	230	4.4
Other family	45	6.6	353	6.8
Acquaintances	**178**	**26.3**	**2,411**	**46.4**
Criminal relationship	21	3.1	563	10.8
Casual acquaintance	102	15.1	1,177	22.7
Other acquaintance	55	8.1	671	12.9
Other	**37**	**5.5**	**931**	**17.9**
Stranger	36	5.3	886	17.1
Unknown	1	0.1	45	0.9

1. Includes common-law relationships.
2. Includes current and former dating relationships as well as "other intimate relationships" such as extra-marital lovers.
Source: Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey, 1997 to 2009.

Trends in female perpetrated crime

The proportion of women charged with criminal activity has increased over the past three decades. In 2009, women made up just over one-fifth (21%) of all adults charged with a *Criminal Code* offence, up from 15% in 1979. A similar increase can be found across offence categories (Chart 7). However, trends that focus on the relative proportion of female offenders should be interpreted with caution.

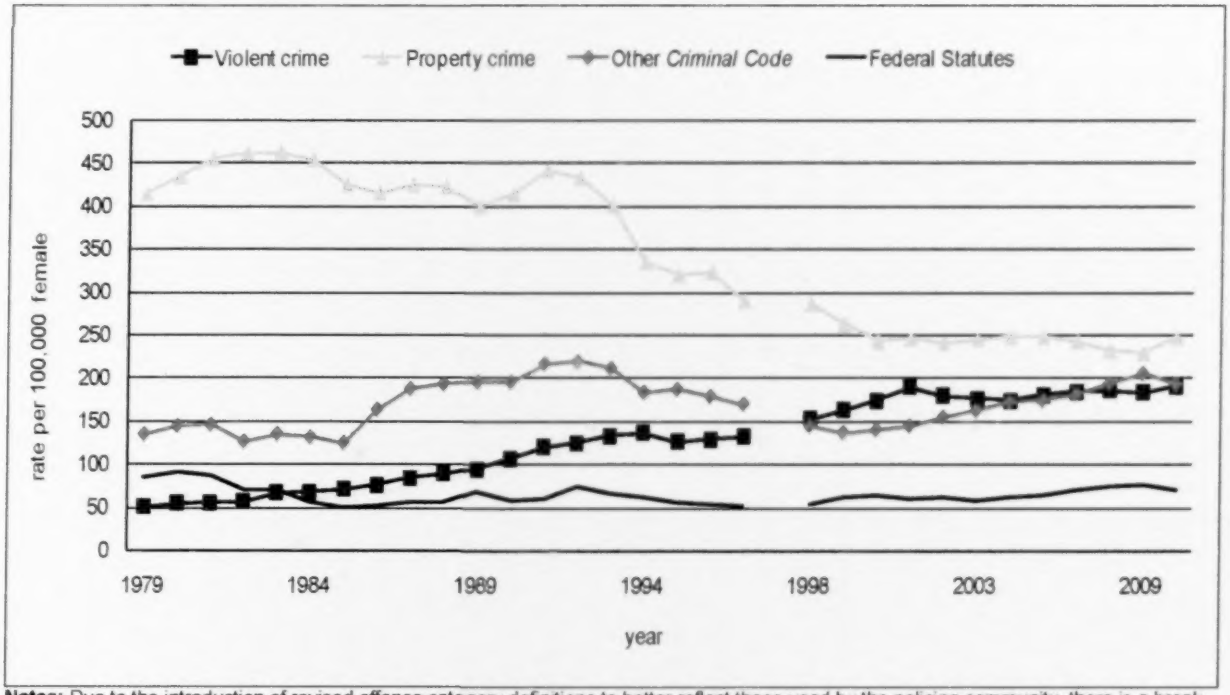
Chart 7
Women as a percentage of adults charged with *Criminal Code* offences, 1977 to 2009



Notes: Due to the introduction of revised offence category definitions to better reflect those used by the policing community, there is a break in the series in 1998. Data excludes traffic violations.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Uniform Crime Reporting (Aggregate) Survey, 1979 to 2009.

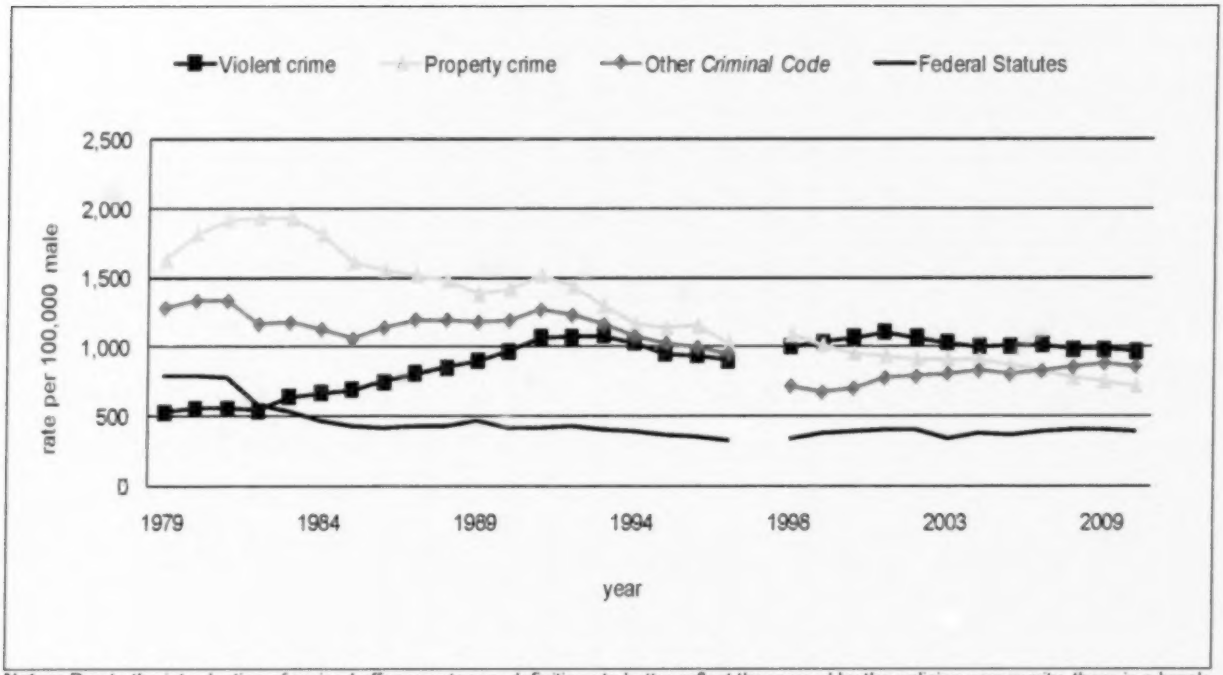
For example, the increase in the proportion of female offenders charged with property crime can be attributed to a substantial decline in property offences by males. Male rates of property crime decreased by 37% from 1979 to 1997, and again by 34% from 1998 to 2009 (Chart 9). In fact, during this same time period female rates of property crime also declined, but to a lesser degree, falling 30% for the first part of the trend and 13% between 1998 and 2009 (Chart 8).

Chart 8
Rate of adult females charged by police by offence category, 1979 to 2009



Notes: Due to the introduction of revised offence category definitions to better reflect those used by the policing community, there is a break in the series in 1998. Data excludes traffic violations.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Uniform Crime Reporting (Aggregate) Survey, 1979 to 2009.

Chart 9
Rate of adult males charged by police by offence category, 1979 to 2009



Notes: Due to the introduction of revised offence category definitions to better reflect those used by the policing community, there is a break in the series in 1998. Data excludes traffic violations.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Uniform Crime Reporting (Aggregate) Survey, 1979 to 2009.

Despite these declines in property crime, there have been increases in violent crime rates particularly among adult females. The rate at which women have been charged with violent offences has increased over the past 30 years. Rates almost tripled between 1979 and 1997, and continued to increase until 2001 after which time they have remained fairly stable. Rates among men increased 71% between 1979 and 1997, but have remained fairly stable after 1998. Most of the increase in female rates of violent crime can be attributed to an increase in the charge rate for assault level 1. While rates of men charged with assault level 1 have decreased since the early 1990s, women's rates have more than doubled, narrowing the gap between the number of females charged with violent crimes and the number of males charged.[27]

Despite the rise in police-reported violent crimes perpetrated by adult females, we do not see these trends in homicide. According to results of the Homicide Survey, while the number of men accused of homicide has remained stable, the number of women accused of homicide decreased over the 1997 to 2009 reference period. Whether the rise in adult female rates of police-reported violent crime reflects an actual increase in female offending or a change in enforcement practices cannot be determined from the data presented here.

27. Kong, R. and K. AuCoin. 2008. "Female Offenders in Canada". *Juristat*. Vol. 28, no. 1. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2008001/article/10509-eng.htm (Accessed December 10, 2010).

Female offenders in the courts[28]

Since females are less likely than males to be charged with criminal offences, they also account for a smaller proportion of those dealt with by adult and youth courts. In 2008/2009, as in previous years, less than one quarter of completed court cases involved a female accused. Approximately 18% of cases disposed of in adult criminal courts involved a female accused, as did 23% completed in youth courts.

The types of offences for which females had the highest involvement were similar for adults and youth, and have changed very little over the past five years.[29] Most adult court cases with a female accused involved property offences (32%), crimes against the person (22%) and administration of justice offences (20%). Of all completed youth court cases involving a female accused in 2008/2009, property crimes and crimes against the person made up a higher proportion of cases (40% and 28% respectively). The next highest category, at 16% of cases, was "other" federal statutes, a group that includes offences under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) (Table 10).

Table 10
Cases completed in adult and youth court, 2008/2009

Offence category[1]	Adult Court					Youth Court				
		Females		Males			Females		Males	
	Total	number	%	number	%	Total	number	%	number	%
Crimes against the person	94,004	13,987	21.5	73,906	24.4	15,457	3,528	28.3	10,921	25.9
Crimes against property	91,923	20,797	32.0	66,710	22.0	22,001	4,983	40.0	15,741	37.4
Administration of justice offences	82,573	13,223	20.3	63,047	20.8	6,284	1,491	12.0	4,248	10.1
Other *Criminal Code* offences	18,676	2,360	3.6	15,061	5.0	3,021	321	2.6	2,437	5.8
Criminal Code traffic offences	56,841	7,758	11.9	45,371	15.0	1,127	150	1.2	904	2.1
Other federal statute[2] offences	48,890	6,887	10.6	38,953	12.9	10,489	1,984	15.9	7,846	18.6
Total offences	**392,907**	**65,012**	**100.0**	**303,048**	**100.0**	**58,379**	**12,457**	**100.0**	**42,097**	**100.0**

1. The primary unit of analysis is the case. It combines all charges against the same person having one or more key overlapping dates (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, date of decision, date of sentencing) into a single case.
2. Federal statute offences refer to offences against Canadian federal statutes, such as the *Customs Act*, the *Employment Insurance Act*, *Firearms Act*, *Food and Drugs Act* (FDA), the *Income Tax Act* and the *Narcotic Control Act* (NCA). This offence category excludes *Criminal Code* of Canada offences.

Notes: The sex of the accused is not available for the province of Manitoba at this time. For adult court data, sex is determined on the basis of the accused's name in Quebec, producing a relatively higher rate of sex unknown.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

28. Cases where the sex of the accused was unknown have been removed from this analysis, as have cases in which a company was the accused. Manitoba is excluded, as it does not report on the sex of the accused. This analysis is based on cases completed in adult and youth court.
29. Kong, R. and K. AuCoin. 2008. "Female Offenders in Canada". *Juristat*. Vol. 28, no. 1. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2008001/article/10509-eng.htm (Accessed December 10, 2010).

As one might expect, the most serious charge[30] for which women and girls were in court closely resembles the offences commonly reported to police. The most serious charge in adult court cases involving a female accused included theft (17%), assault level 1 (11%), impaired driving (10%), failure to comply with a court order (9%), breach of probation (7%) and fraud (7%). Combined, these 6 offences accounted for more than 60% of all cases disposed of in adult criminal courts. Theft and assault level 1 were also the most common offences for which females were in youth court (accounting for 21% and 14% of completed cases respectively), followed by *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) offences (11%) and failure to comply with a court order (8%).

The number of completed adult court cases involving a male accused exceeded those involving a female accused across all offence categories. The highest representation of females was found in cases of prostitution (31%), fraud (31%) and theft (30%). Females also accounted for one in five cases involving the charges of failure to appear in court or other administration of justice offences, drug trafficking, possession of stolen property, and assault level 1 and major assault.[31]

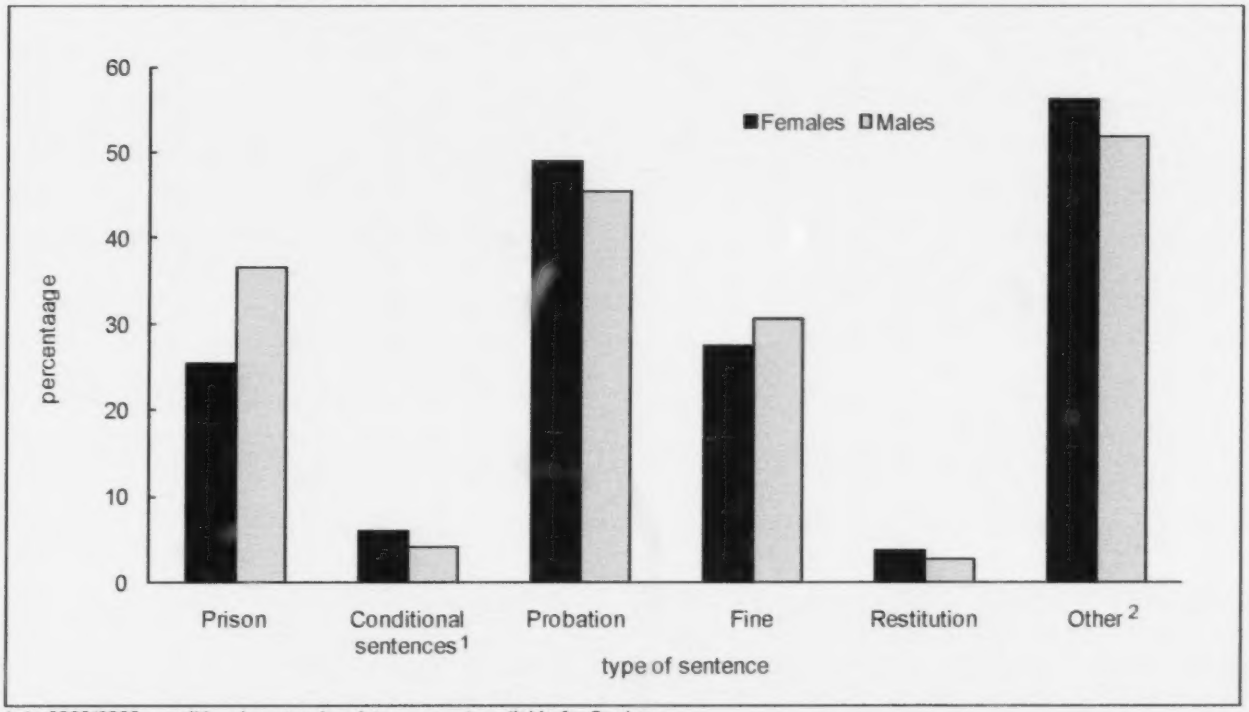
In 2008/2009, adult court cases involving a female accused were less likely to lead to a guilty finding[32], and when there was a finding of guilt, were less likely to receive a sentence of custody. For example, in 2008/2009, 59% of all completed cases involving women ended in a guilty finding, compared to 68% for men. A further 37% of cases involving a female accused were resolved by being stayed or withdrawn, compared to 28% for males.

There are several possible factors that influence the proportion of cases found guilty. Compared to males, cases involving a female accused were also less likely to involve multiple charges (62% versus 55%). Past research suggests that an accused is generally more likely to plead guilty to at least one charge when faced with multiple charges. Further, some cases are stayed or withdrawn pending the completion of diversion programs for first time offenders, and prior research suggests that females are more likely than males to be one-time offenders.[33]

Upon conviction, women were less likely than men to receive a prison sentence (26% versus 37%) (Chart 10) and when custody was ordered, median sentence lengths were generally shorter for adult females than adult males. The lower incarceration rates for women held true across offences with the exception of being unlawfully at large, prostitution, disturbing the peace, drug possession, and YCJA offences[34] (where women found guilty were equally or more likely than men to receive an order of custody).

30. When a case has more than one charge, the most serious offence is selected to represent the case. For a description of the methodology used to determine the most serious offence, see J. Thomas, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 2008-2009." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Vol. 30, no.2. Ottawa.
31. Major assault is an offence category that includes the higher levels of assault in the *Criminal Code*: assault with a weapon (Assault Level II, section 267), aggravated assault (Assault Level III, section 268) and other assaults (assaulting a police officer, and unlawfully causing bodily harm).
32. However, these differences do vary by province. The percentage of women found guilty was comparable to those of men in Newfoundland and Labrador as well as Yukon Territory.
33. Kong, R. and K. AuCoin. 2008. "Female Offenders in Canada". *Juristat*. Vol. 28, no. 1. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2008001/article/10509-eng.htm (Accessed December 10, 2010).
34. Although the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) is legislation governing criminal justice of young persons, there are several offences in the Act under which an adult can be charged such as: s. 136(a) inducing a young person to leave unlawfully a place of custody, s. 136(c) harbouring a young person who has left a place of custody, s. 136(d) inducing or assisting a young person to breach or disobey a term or condition of a youth sentence, etc. See J. Thomas, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 2008-2009." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Vol. 30, no.2. Ottawa.

Chart 10
Guilty cases by sex and type of sentence, adult criminal court, Canada, 2008/2009



1. In 2008/2009, conditional sentencing data were not available for Quebec.
2. "Other" sentences include absolute and conditional discharge, suspended sentence, community service order and prohibition order among others.

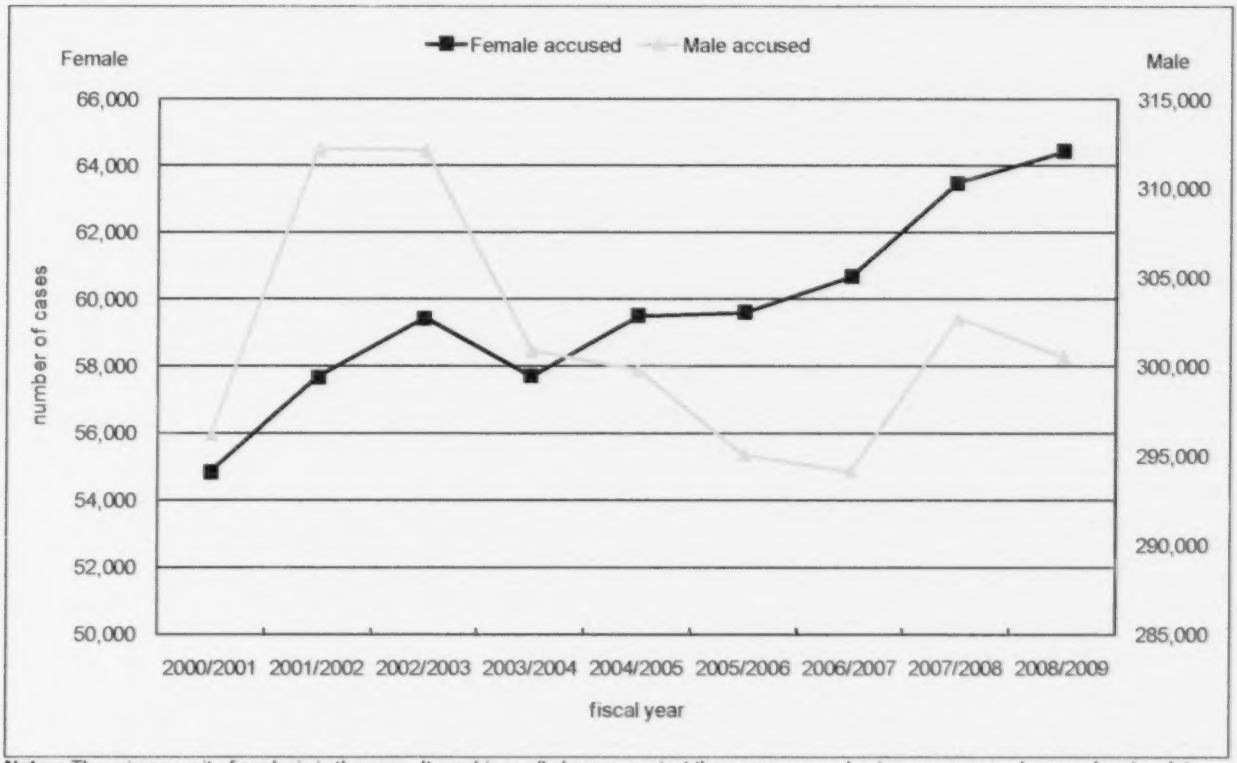
Notes: Cases can have more than one sentence. As such, the sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100. Probation total include mandatory probation for cases given a conditional discharge *Canadian Criminal Code* (C.C.C.s.730(1)) or a suspended sentence *Canadian Criminal Code* (C.C.C.x.731(1)(a)). In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2008/2009 is estimated at 95% of adult criminal court caseload.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Trends in adult and youth criminal courts

There has been a small increase in the number of adult criminal court cases disposed of in the 10 reporting jurisdictions between 2000/2001 and 2008/2009. Some of this increase can be attributed to a steady rise in cases involving a female accused. The number of cases involving a female accused increased 18% from 2000/2001 to 2008/2009 (Chart 11). Following a 4-year downward trend in the number of cases disposed beginning in 2003/2004; the number of cases involving a male accused increased by 3% in 2007/2008 and dropped slightly the following year. An increase in the number of cases involving a female accused was found across all provinces for which adult court data were available[35], with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador, which saw a small decline.

Chart 11
Completed cases in adult court by sex of the accused, 10 jurisdictions, 2000/2001 to 2008/2009

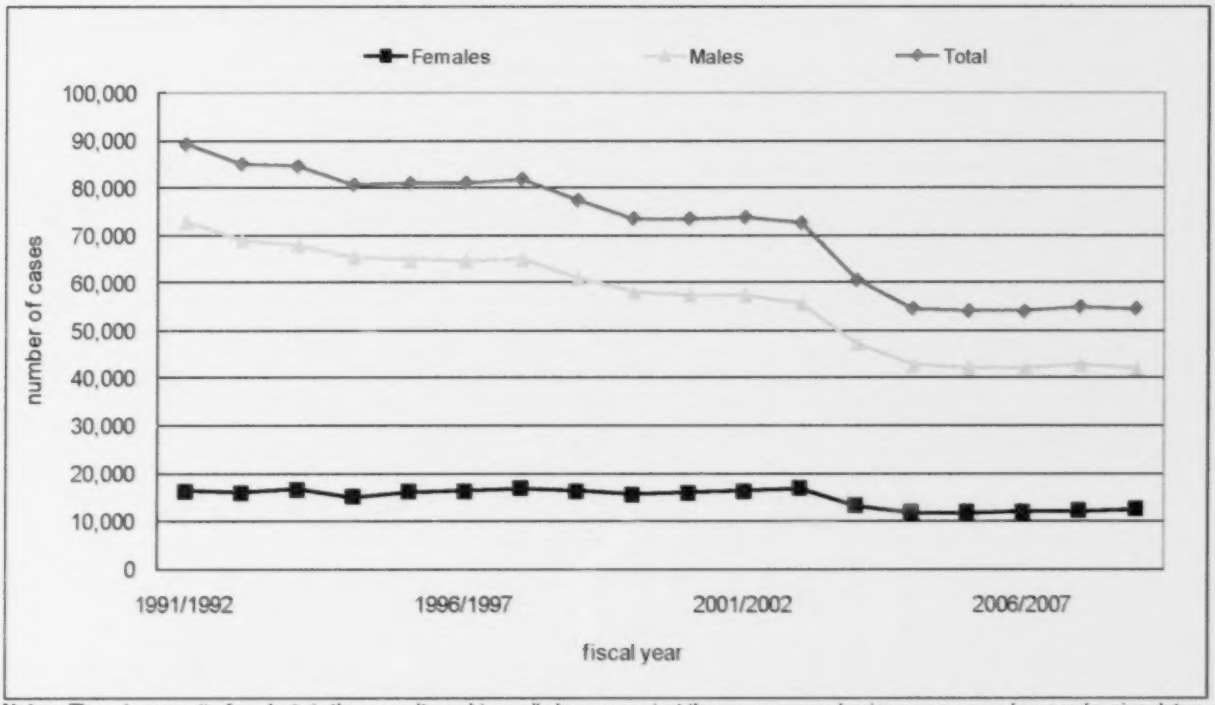


Notes: The primary unit of analysis is the case. It combines all charges against the same person having one or more key overlapping dates (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, date of decision, date of sentencing) into a single case.
This trend analysis table does not include data from Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Coverage for the Adult Criminal Court Survey data for the ten jurisdictions is estimated at 90% adult criminal court caseload. Sex is determined on the basis of the accused's name in Quebec, producing a relatively higher rate of sex unknown.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

35. The trend analysis does not include data from Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Trends in youth court caseload differ from those observed for adult court with a steady decline in the number of cases disposed involving both female and male accused. The number of cases involving a female accused decreased by 24% and the number of cases involving a male accused decreased by 42% since the trend data became available in 1991/1992 (Chart 12). This decline was fuelled by a steady decrease in the number of crimes against property cases (such as theft, break and enter and mischief). Some of this decline has also been attributed to the introduction of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) in 2003, which encourages the diversion of youth who have committed non-violent and minor crimes away from the formal court system. The number of cases completed in youth court has stabilized since 2004/2005, although there has been a small increase (5%) in the number of cases disposed involving female youth.

Chart 12
Substantial declines in youth court caseload



Notes: The primary unit of analysis is the case. It combines all charges against the same person having one or more key overlapping dates (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, date of decision, date of sentencing) into a single case.
This chart excludes Manitoba because data on the sex of the accused is not available for all time points. Sex is determined on the basis of the accused's name in Quebec, producing a relatively higher rate of sex unknown.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Female offenders under correctional supervision

According to data from the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey, approximately 9,425 adult women were admitted to sentenced custody in 2008/2009, representing 11% of all provincial/territorial admissions and 6% of federal admissions.[36] Women also represented 13% of the remand population (a court-ordered detention of a person while waiting for further court appearances). Furthermore, 18% of intakes to probation and 19% of intakes to conditional sentences were women (Table 11). Some provincial/territorial systems reported lower representation of adult females in sentenced custody than others, with a low of 6% in Nunavut to a high of 14% in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Table 11
Adults admitted to correctional services, 2008/2009

Province	Sentenced Custody		Remand		Probation		Conditional Sentence	
	total number[1]	% female[2]	total number[1]	% female[2]	total number[1]	% female[2]	total number[1]	% female[2]
Newfoundland and Labrador	986	9.1	492	10.8	1,501	17.5	368	23.7
Prince Edward Island	648	9.6	268	10.1	605	15.4	49	..
Nova Scotia	1,669	9.6	3,124	12.8	3,400	19.7	784	18.1
New Brunswick	2,323	11.2	1,937	11.0	1,772	19.4	643	21.8
Quebec	7,725	8.9	29,677	9.3	9,659	14.8	4,093	15.1
Ontario	31,370	10.2	63,738	13.6	37,093	18.3	5,301	22.1
Manitoba	3,804	8.8	9,782	14.3	6,471	19.7	1,155	20.8
Saskatchewan	3,620	14.3	5,925	9.6	3,962	23.1	1,575	19.5
Alberta	18,509	14.1	23,970	13.7	9,159	18.4	1,324	20.3
British Columbia	9,544	11.1	13,518	13.5	10,342	18.8	3,038	18.1
Yukon	226	11.9	392	13.8	317	19.6	74	31.1
Northwest Territories	611	10.1	520	9.0	..	..	..	..
Nunavut	771	5.7	431	7.7	..	..	..	..
Provincial/territorial total	**81,806**	**11.1**	**153,774**	**12.6**	**84,281**	**18.3**	**18,404**	**19.3**
Federal total[3]	**4,911**	**6.4**	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	**86,717**	**10.9**	...	...	...	...	...	...

1. Includes cases where gender is unknown.
2. Percentage calculations exclude cases where gender is unknown.
3. Warrant of Committal admissions.3. Warrant of Committal admissions.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey and Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

36. The administration of correctional services in Canada is a shared responsibility of the federal, provincial and territorial governments. Which adult offenders are placed in the federal system and which are placed in the provincial/territorial system depend on decisions taken by the judiciary. Adult offenders sentenced to custody terms of two years or more fall under the federal penitentiary system. Sentences of less than two years and community-based sanctions, such as probation and conditional sentences, are the responsibility of the provinces and territories.

Consistent with findings from police and court surveys, data from the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) Survey show that the relative proportion of females admitted to correctional services is notably higher among youth than adults. In 2008/2009, young females comprised 17% of youth admitted to sentenced custody. Further, among the youth under correctional supervision 21% of female youth were admitted to remand and 24% were admitted to probation (Table 12). Females as a proportion of youth admitted to sentenced custody varied by province, with female youth accounting for 38% of admissions in the Northwest Territories, 23% in New Brunswick, 20% in British Columbia and 19% in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Table 12
Youth admitted to correctional services, 2008/2009

Province	Sentenced Custody		Remand		Probation	
	total number[1]	% female[2]	total number[1]	% female[2]	total number[1]	% female[2]
Newfoundland and Labrador	64	18.8	93	20.4	240	19.7
Prince Edward Island	..	...	..	...	..	...
Nova Scotia	130	14.6	274	14.2	..	...
New Brunswick	176	22.7	324	21.9	430	20.7
Quebec	1,032	...	2,542	...	4,487	...
Ontario	1,250	16.9	7,932	20.6	6,891	23.0
Manitoba	338	10.4	1,831	26.9	1,032	29.4
Saskatchewan	398	17.9	..	...	1,328	26.2
Alberta	..	...	..	...	1,865	23.3
British Columbia	325	19.7	1,167	25.1	1,432	25.3
Yukon	19	10.5	35	11.4	19	26.3
Northwest Territories	45	37.8	45	28.9	110	40.9
Nunavut	..	...	..	...	..	...
Provincial/territorial total	**3,777**	**17.1**	**14,243**	**21.9**	**17,834**	**24.1**

1. Includes cases where gender is unknown.
2. Percentage calculations exclude cases where gender is unknown.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey.

According to data from the provincial correctional systems[37] in Ontario, British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador, female youth were more likely to be serving time in custody for "other" *Criminal Code* and federal offences (54%) than for violent offences (27%) or property offences (20%). Male youth, on the other hand, were almost equally likely to be serving time in custody for a violent crime (36%) as "other" offences (35%). The other offences for which female youth were in custody were primarily offences under federal legislation including the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) (37%) as well as offences against the administration of justice (12%).

37. The composition of the provincial correctional system data reported here is taken from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey, and is based primarily on admissions to custody in Ontario (80.2%), followed by British Columbia (13.1%), New Brunswick (5.4%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (1.3%).

Trends in female admissions to custody

The number and proportion of adult female admissions to provincial/territorial custody and federal custody has increased between 1999/2000 and 2008/2009. Among the 9 reporting provincial and territorial jurisdictions[38], females represented 12% of admissions to remand, sentenced custody and other temporary detentions in 2008/2009, up from 10% in 1999/2000. Adult female admissions to federal custody have also increased, with females representing 6% of admissions in 2008/2009, up from 5% in 1999/2000.

The percentage of female youth admitted to sentenced custody has also increased in recent years. According to trend data from the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) Survey, females represented 21% of youth admissions in the reporting provincial and territorial jurisdictions[39] in 2008/2009, up from 18% in 2003/2004.

Characteristics of women in custody

A 2008/2009 snapshot of women in provincial and federal custody suggest that incarcerated women are on average younger, more likely to be single, less likely to have a high school diploma, and more likely to be unemployed than women in the Canadian population. More than half of women in the reporting provincial institutions (56%) and in federal custody (53%) were between the ages of 18 and 35 compared to 28% in the general population in 2009. Similarly, more than half of females in custody were single and never married at the time of admission compared to 32% in the population.

Among female inmates in the reporting provincial institutions, 50% did not complete secondary school, whereas 43% had a high school diploma and 12% had completed some post-secondary education. In contrast, 2006 Census data show that less than 15% of women over the age of 25 did not complete secondary school, 25% had a high school diploma, and 61% reported having completed some post-secondary education. Among the reporting jurisdictions, less than one quarter of women (24%) reported being employed full or part-time at the time of their admission to provincial custody compared to 58% in the general population in 2006 (Table 13).

38. The Adult Correctional Services Survey trend data exclude admissions to custody in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta and Nunavut for all years. For this reason, estimates of the relative proportion of females in custody in 2008/2009 will differ from those presented in Table 11.

39. Trend data for the Youth Custody and Community Services Survey is only currently available for a six-year period from 2003/2004 to 2008/2009. These trend data exclude admissions to custody in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Nunavut for all years. For this reason, estimates of the relative proportion of female youth in custody in 2008/2009 will differ from those presented in Table 12.

Table 13
Characteristics of adult women involved in provincial and federal correctional custodial services, 2008/2009

Characteristics	Provincial[1] custody			Federal custody		
	total[2]	number	%	total	number	%
Total persons	**75,559**	**8,565**	**11.3**	**22,656**	**1076**	**5.0**
Aboriginal identity						
Aboriginal	10,727	1,665	19.5	4,234	311	28.9
Non-Aboriginal	64,457	6,867	80.5	18,422	765	71.1
Unknown	375	33	...	0	0	...
Age at last custodial status admission date						
Under 18	19	0	0	36	1	0.1
18 to 19	5,109	554	6.5	682	28	2.6
20 to 24	14,522	1,525	17.8	3,839	164	15.2
25 to 29	12,737	1,461	17.1	4,154	197	18.3
30 to 34	10,322	1,242	14.5	3,375	176	16.4
35 to 39	9,506	1,224	14.3	3,319	168	15.6
40 to 44	9,032	1,116	13.0	2,841	168	15.6
45 to 49	7,024	815	9.5	2,030	90	8.4
50 and over	7,264	626	7.3	2,380	84	7.8
Unknown	24	2	...	0	0	...
Marital status[2]						
Single (never married)	45,147	5,096	61.6	11,405	519	49.2
Married	8,089	664	8.0	1,807	89	8.4
Common-law	10,440	1,178	14.2	6,680	283	26.9
Separated/divorced	8,485	1,196	14.5	2,130	131	12.4
Widowed	416	134	1.6	295	32	3.0
Unknown	2,982	297	...	339	22	...
Education completed for age 25 and over[3]						
Primary school or less	1,202	126	14.4	.	.	...
Some secondary	2,646	314	35.8	.	.	...
Completed secondary	3,828	376	42.9	.	.	...
Some postsecondary	269	48	5.5	.	.	...
Completed postsecondary	640	60	6.8	.	.	...
Unknown	841	142	...	.	.	...
Employment status at admission[3]						
Unemployed (but able to work)	5,645	809	65.6	.	.	...
Employed (part-time, full-time)	4,899	292	23.7	.	.	...
Not employable – disabled, medical reasons, etc.	401	48	3.9	.	.	...
Not employed - retired, student, or other reason	990	156	12.7	.	.	...
Unknown	1,358	153	...	.	.	...

Table 13
Characteristics of adult women involved in provincial and federal correctional custodial services, 2008/2009 (continued)

Characteristics	Provincial[1] custody			Federal custody		
	total[2]	number	%	total	number	%
Need indicated[4,5]						
Substance abuse	4,631	569	93.7	15,097	705	73.9
Attitude	3,875	442	72.9	13,485	388	44.0
Family/marital	1,703	226	69.1	9,033	556	59.8
Personal/emotional	..	..	...	17,817	786	82.1
Social interaction	4,303	273	45.0	14,103	684	73.5
Employment	3,477	493	81.4	12,307	689	74.1
Community functioning	1,390	220	78.9	6,718	317	34.3
Number of needs indicated[4]						
0 to 1	193	15	2.5	629	29	3.0
2 to 3	1,149	96	15.8	6,916	308	32.0
4 or more	3,705	496	81.7	13,211	625	65.0
Most serious offence, last correctional status						
Violent offences	23,246	1,914	22.7	13,571	503	47.1
Property offences	13,119	1,935	23.0	3,265	173	16.2
Other *Criminal Code* offences (excludes traffic)	23,827	3,084	36.6	1,906	81	7.6
Criminal Code - traffic offences[6]	5,092	348	4.1	863	30	2.8
Other federal statutes[7]	6,946	1,032	12.3	2,913	280	26.2
Other offences[8]	1,917	109	1.3	0	0	0
Unknown	1,412	143	...	138	8	...

1. Provincial custody data include the provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan.
2. Total provincial includes 75 cases where gender is unknown.
3. Provincial custody excludes Newfoundland and Labrador and Ontario due to missing data.
4. Needs analysis includes last assessment performed. Includes only those cases where need assessments were performed and need level is indicated as medium or high. Provincial custody includes Saskatchewan.
5. Includes only those cases in which needs were assessed. Need is indicated as being present when the need is assessed as medium or high. Maximum number of provincial needs available is 6 and minimum is 0. Maximum number of federal needs available is 7 and minimum is 0.
6. Includes impaired driving offences.
7. Includes drug offences and other federal statute violations.
8. Includes provincial/territorial offences and municipal bylaw infractions.

Notes: Percentage calculations excludes 'unknown'. Includes the most recent custodial status.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

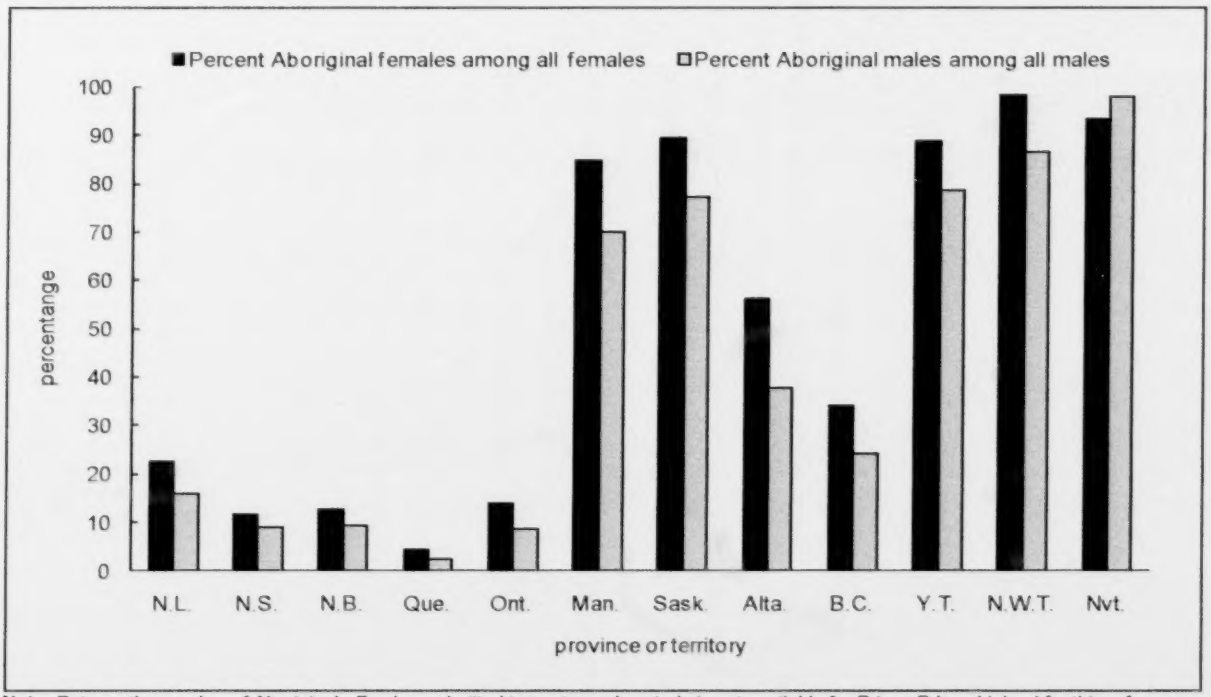
The needs of offenders are evaluated for rehabilitative purposes upon entering custody. Almost all female offenders in provincial custody had multiple needs identified, particularly in the areas of substance abuse (94%), employment (81%) and community functioning (79%). The needs most commonly identified among female federal inmates include: personal/emotional problems (82%), employment, substance use, and social interactions (74%).

Representation of Aboriginal women under correctional supervision[40]

The representation of Aboriginal women and men under correctional supervision has been well documented in recent years, and has steadily increased.[41] In 2008/2009, 35% of women and 23% of men admitted to adult sentenced custody identified as an Aboriginal person, while 2006 Census data show that Aboriginal women and men made up only 3% of the adult Canadian population. The representation of Aboriginal people in custody is even greater for women than men. This is apparent across Canada, albeit more pronounced in the western provinces and in the territories.

In 2008/2009, Aboriginal women comprised more than 85% of admissions of women to adult provincial sentenced custody in Saskatchewan and Manitoba and just over half in Alberta. Yet in 2006 Aboriginal adults represented only 11%, 12%, and 5% of these provincial populations respectively. Although Aboriginal people make up a larger proportion of the populations in the territories[42], they remain over-represented in territorial correctional facilities. In 2008/2009 Aboriginal women accounted for 89%, 93% and 98% of admissions to custody in Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories (Chart 13).

Chart 13
Proportion of adults admitted to sentenced custody who were Aboriginal, 2008/009

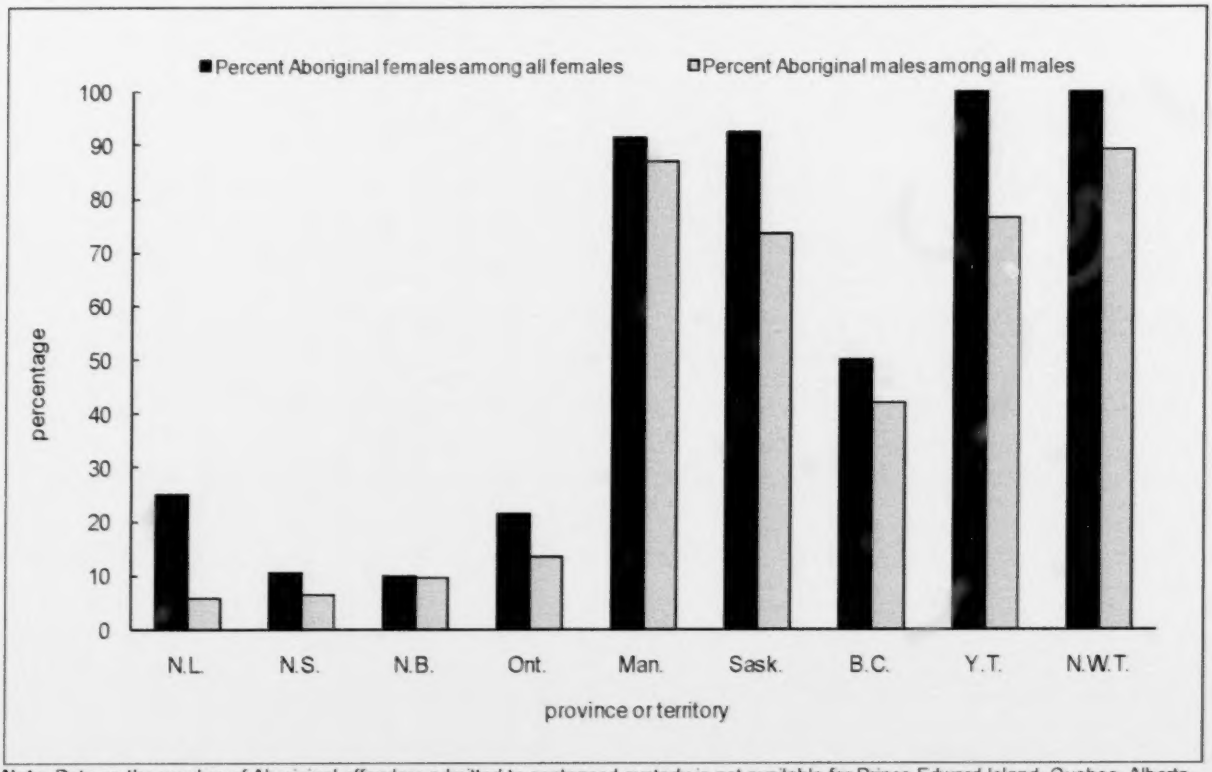


Note: Data on the number of Aboriginal offenders admitted to sentenced custody is not available for Prince Edward Island for this reference period.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

40. The definition of Aboriginal identity used in the Industry Classification Coding System was modeled after the definition within the Census. The concept of the Aboriginal population within the Census refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group (North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit). Also included are individuals who did not report an Aboriginal identity, but who reported being a Registered or Treaty Indian, and/or those who reported they were members of an Indian Band or First Nation. The Industry Classification Coding System collects Aboriginal identity information at admission to correctional services through self-identification.
41. Perreault, S. 2009. "The incarceration of Aboriginal people in adult correctional services". Juristat. Vol. 29, no. 3. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2009003/article/10903-eng.htm (Accessed December 10, 2010).
42. According to the most recent population estimates from the 2006 Census of Canada, approximately 22% of persons living in Yukon Territory, 45% in the Northwest Territories, and 78% in Nunavut self-identify themselves as an Aboriginal person.

Similar to Aboriginal adults, data from the Youth Custody and Community Services Survey (YCCS) show that Aboriginal youth were highly represented in admissions to all types of correctional services in 2008/2009. Among the nine reporting provinces and territories, Aboriginal females accounted for 44% of admissions to open or secure custody, 34% of admissions to remand, and 31% of admissions or intakes to probation. As seen for adult admissions, the representation of Aboriginal youth is greatest in the Yukon and Northwest Territories (100%), Saskatchewan (93%) and Manitoba (91%) (Chart 14).

Chart 14
Proportion of youth admitted to sentenced custody who were Aboriginal, 2008/2009



Note: Data on the number of Aboriginal offenders admitted to sentenced custody is not available for Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Alberta or Nunavut for this reference period.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey.

Previous research[43,44] has found that the number of admissions to sentenced custody has decreased since the mid-1990's for both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population. However, this decrease has been more substantial for non-Aboriginal adults, resulting in an increase in the proportional representation of Aboriginal people among sentenced custody admissions over the same time period.

Upon entering custody, offenders are evaluated for rehabilitative purposes. A higher proportion of Aboriginal women than non-Aboriginal women entering federal custody were assessed as having rehabilitative needs in a number of areas, including substance use, marital and family relationships, employment, and social interaction. Aboriginal women in federal custody were also more likely than non-Aboriginal women to be assessed as having needs in multiple areas. Approximately 66% of Aboriginal women in federal custody were assessed as having 5 or more rehabilitative needs compared to 38% of non-Aboriginal women. Previous research found the same to be true for Aboriginal men in custody.[45] The needs assessments suggest that a higher proportion of Aboriginal women and men could be at risk of re-offending and possibly returning to corrections services. This could be a contributing factor to the high representation of Aboriginal offenders in custody.[46]

43. Perreault, S. 2009. "The incarceration of Aboriginal people in adult correctional services". *Juristat*. Vol. 29, no. 3. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2009003/article/10903-eng.htm (Accessed December 10, 2010).
44. Brzozowski, J., A. Taylor-Butts, and S. Johnson. 2006. "Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada." *Juristat*. Vol. 26, no. 3. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. *http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/85-002-x2006003-eng.pdf* (Accessed December 10, 2010).
45. Perreault, S. 2009. "The incarceration of Aboriginal people in adult correctional services". *Juristat*. Vol. 29, no. 3. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Ottawa. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2009003/article/10903-eng.htm (Accessed December 10, 2010).
46. *Ibid.*

Text Box 2: Women in justice-related occupations

The number of women working in the criminal justice field has seen considerable growth over the past two decades (Table 14). According to *Census* data, women accounted for 25% of judges in 2006, almost double the proportion found in 1991 (14%). In addition, a larger share of lawyers and notaries (39%) were women in 2006 relative to 1991 (27%). In 2006, 59% of probation and parole officers and 32% of correctional service officers were women, up from 50% and 22% 15 years earlier. Women have long been prominent in paralegal and related occupations, representing 87% in 2006, up from 76% in 1991.

Table Box 2
Women as a percentage of those employed in justice-related occupations, 1991 to 2006

Occupation	1991		1996		2001		2006	
	number	% of total	number	% of total	number	% of total	number	% of total
Judges	345	14.0	495	20.0	620	21.0	700	25.0
Lawyers and notaries	14,845	27.0	18,465	31.0	23,185	35.0	30,385	39.0
Paralegal and related occupations	12,835	76.0	16,620	79.0	24,415	81.0	34,305	87.0
Probation and parole officers	1,885	50.0	2,275	47.0	3,735	54.0	3,550	59.0
Correctional service officers	3,960	22.0	4,725	25.0	5,415	29.0	6,440	32.0
Sworn officers[1,2]	3,964	7.0	5,634	10.4	8,273	14.5	11,211	17.9

1. Includes personnel who have obtained senior officer status, normally at the rank of lieutenant or higher, such as chiefs, deputy chiefs, staff superintendents, superintendents, staff inspectors, inspectors, lieutenants, and other equivalent ranks.
2. Includes personnel between the rank of constable and lieutenant, such as staff-sergeants, sergeants, detective-sergeants, corporals and all equivalent ranks.

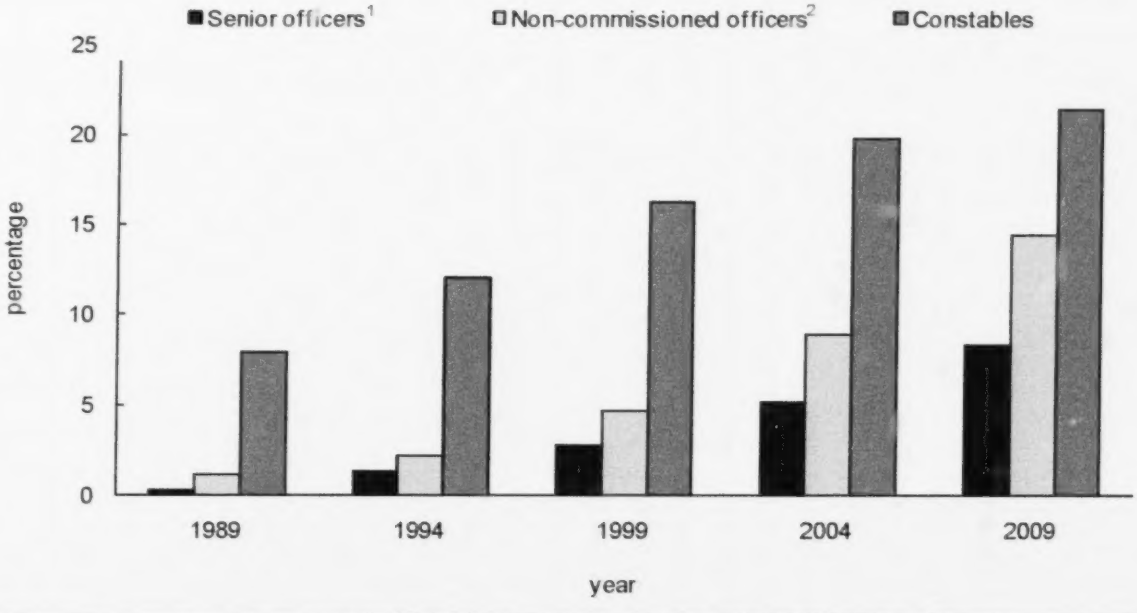
Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006 and Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Police Administration Survey.

Although the representation of women in policing is proportionately lower than most other justice occupations, it too has seen real growth in recent years. In 2006, approximately 18% of sworn officers were women,[47] up from 14% in 2001 and 7% a decade earlier. According to results from the Police Administration Survey (PAS), women have also made inroads in the senior ranks. From 2005 to 2009, while the proportion of female constables has remained relatively stable (21%), the proportion of women employed as senior officers increased from 5.5% to 8.3% and those employed as non-commissioned officers grew from 10% to 14% (Chart Box 2).

47. This proportion is similar to that of the United States, where 20% of officers were reported to be female in 2008.

Text Box 2: Women in justice-related occupations (continued)

Chart Box 2
Women as a percentage of police officers, by level, 1989 to 2009



1. Includes personnel who have obtained senior officer status, normally at the rank of lieutenant or higher, such as chiefs, deputy chiefs, staff superintendents, superintendents, staff inspectors, inspectors, lieutenants, and other equivalent ranks.
2. Includes personnel between the rank of constable and lieutenant, such as staff-sergeants, sergeants, detective-sergeants, corporals and all equivalent ranks.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Police Administration Survey, 1989 to 2009.